

Portfolio Gold

Today is Golden Monday - the day The Times' unique share-price competition is re-launched as Portfolio Gold, with a daily prize of £4,000 and a weekly prize of £8,000. You will need the new Portfolio Gold card from today to join in the game. Newsagents have been receiving supplies throughout the past week, and copies of yesterday's Sunday Times Colour Magazine contained a gold card.

If you have any difficulty in obtaining one, details of where to apply appear on page 3, column 8, today.

Portfolio list page 24; rules and how to play, page 20.

£6,000 to be won today

Saturday's weekly prize of £20,000 was shared by Mr Colin Braham, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Mr J Garton, of Battersea, London SW11.

There was no winner in the daily competition, so the £2,000 prize money is added to today's prize, making a total of £6,000.

Tomorrow

Crown counsellor



In the second part of a tribute to the Queen, Alan Franks looks at the role of her Private Secretary, which requires social skill and political acumen.

Chanel's number one Karl Lagerfeld on his style for life

Spy man freed

A Civil Servant who allegedly passed aviation secrets to a Czechoslovak diplomat in London gave himself up to Scotland Yard officers. He left after several hours questioning.

'Ivan' link



"Ivan the Terrible", a wartime desert camp guard, pictured above, has been linked by an Italian witness to a man held in Israel for trial.

Cheaper law

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, has commissioned studies costing £375,000 aimed at speeding up and cutting costs of litigation.

Store wars

Woolworth has outlined a new strategy of specializing in six areas of merchandise as the first stage in its defence against the £1.6 billion bid by Dixons.

Building Societies are facing the biggest challenge to their role as both lending and savings institutions. A Special Report looks at the industry.

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Gadaffi link with bishop's armed kidnap

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Tripoli, three priests and a nun have been abducted by armed Libyans in what appears to be a Gadaffi-inspired kidnap.

President Reagan has called a White House meeting today to discuss if the US Sixth Fleet should attack Libya.

In what looks suspiciously like a Gadaffi-inspired kidnap, the Italian Roman Catholic Bishop of Tripoli, Monsignor Giovanni Martinelli, has been abducted by armed Libyans in Benghazi, together with three Catholic priests and a nun.

Their seizure by several men - apparently members of the Libyan security police - suggests that Colonel Gadaffi deliberately ordered their detention to intimidate Italy and other European nations into refraining from any support for President Reagan's threats of a military attack on Libya.

Colonel Gadaffi himself now claims - untruthfully, according to Western diplomats in Tripoli - that he has moved foreign workers into oilfields and military barracks which, so he claims, are scheduled to be attacked in American air strikes in the near future.

In Tripoli itself, however, there is no sign of military preparation for an American assault, save for the positioning of several radar-guided mobile anti-aircraft guns near military installations and army barracks.

International concern, however, has focused on the disappearance of Monsignor Martinelli, who was taken from the Franciscan House in Benghazi on Thursday night, together with the priests - a Pole, a Filipino and a Maltese - and the Italian-born nun, whose name has been given as Sister Gemma.

According to several foreign

EEC tries to forestall US action

From Richard Owen, Brussels

In a last-minute and possibly belated attempt to forestall American military action against Libya, European foreign ministers met today in The Hague to formulate alternative measures against terrorism, including tougher controls over Arab nationals and embassy staff in the West.

After intense European diplomatic activity at the weekend, The Netherlands, which holds the EEC presidency, brought the emergency gathering forward from Wednesday to today.

Britain is under pressure from its European partners to refuse the Americans the use of its military facilities, in Cyprus or in Britain. Mrs Thatcher's warning yesterday that an American strike against Libya would contravene international law may help to avert a damaging EEC split over the crisis, diplomats said, but tensions remain.

Italy - which requested today's meeting - Spain, and Greece are the EEC states most vehemently opposed to an American strike. They are closest to the scene of the conflict and are alarmed by Colonel Gadaffi's threat to retaliate against Nato bases in southern Europe.

West Germany is also urging Washington to desist from "emotional" action. It not

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Up to 40 Tory MPs are expected to oppose the Bill in the vote at midnight. Over the weekend whips telephoned potential rebels, commending the concessions by the Government, and explaining that they would have opportunities to vote for compromise solutions.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington and a

Mrs Thatcher appears to have rejected a request for US bases in Britain to be used for a bombing assault on Libya.

An emergency meeting of EEC foreign ministers at The Hague today will discuss alternative anti-terrorist measures.

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli

eye-witnesses, the bishop was taken away in his pyjamas by men who appeared to be members of a Gadaffi revolutionary cadre, gunmen who subsequently ransacked the building in which the prelate and his colleagues had been staying.

Monsignor Martinelli was on a post-Easter pastoral visit to Benghazi when the gunmen arrived to take him.

While diplomats here suspect the action may have been deliberately designed to in-

timidate Western nations - and especially Italy - it has not escaped their notice that the Pope was visiting a synagogue in Rome yesterday, and that the Libyans may have tried to forestall this by taking the bishop.

Italian diplomats have enquired in vain after the bishop's whereabouts, and Libyan police still do not know why he and his colleagues were detained. Equally vague was Colonel Gadaffi's claim that foreign workers, including members of the 1,000-strong American community here, had been moved into desert oil fields and barracks in Libya.

According to Colonel Gadaffi, Libyan intelligence has information that the US Sixth Fleet intends to strike at a number of oil fields; for this reason, the compounds - together with a number of

Thatcher baulks at plea on bases

By Philip Webster and Rodney Cowton

The Prime Minister is believed to have refused a request from the United States for the use of its F111 bomber bases in Britain to mount an attack against Libya.

The Government's opposition to the launching of raids from Britain had been clear by Friday but it is understood to have been reaffirmed at a Downing Street meeting on Saturday between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and General Vernon Walters, the American representative at the United Nations, who has been acting as President Reagan's personal envoy to Europe over the Libyan crisis.

Whitehall yesterday maintained a news blackout about the outcome of the meeting. The absence of official confirmation of the outcome was thought to be due to the political difficulties of admitting that President Reagan's plea had been refused.

Reagan envoy sees Kohl in secret

Bonn - Mr Vernon Walters, President Reagan's special envoy, held secret talks on Libya with Chancellor Kohl of West Germany and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister (Our Correspondent writes).

Later Mr Walters was reported to have flown to Paris for a similar meeting with M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, before going

on to Rome for further talks on the Mediterranean conflict.

Security at all crossing points into West Berlin was tightened when Allied commanders decided to apply "exceptional" measures after the discotheque bombing.

MADRID: US military bases in Spain are on "yellow" alert, sources said here yesterday, but experts said it was technically almost impossible

Reagan calls council of war

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

In an atmosphere of confusion and division within the Administration, President Reagan has summoned a key White House meeting today to try to decide whether to send the Sixth Fleet into an attack against Libya.

A week of indecision has cost him substantial support on Capitol Hill, with key congressmen now demanding full consultations and saying that Mr Reagan is in danger of violating the War Powers Act. There is a keen feeling here that the initiative for swift action is slipping from him.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, returned from a tour of Pacific countries yesterday, far from convinced that an immediate strike against Libya was wise. He is said to want answers to many questions before he will support action, although in principle he favours reprisals against proven perpetrators of terrorist acts.

The allies, including Britain, appear to be urging restraint on Mr Reagan. Mrs Margaret Thatcher has made it clear to Mr Vernon Walters, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, in London that she is reluctant to allow American F111 bombers to launch raids on Libya from bases in Britain. However, further high-level consultations are on the agenda.

Today's White House talks will include Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who returned on Saturday from an overseas tour, and Vice-President Bush, who returned from the Gulf states yesterday.

Speaking on American television during a refuelling stop at Shannon yesterday, Mr Bush appeared hesitant and unclear about the exact position reached by Mr Reagan.

"I do not know that he has made such a decision" he said when asked if Mr Reagan had decided to attack Libya. He expected to be brought up-to-date today.

Mr Shultz seems to favour immediate reprisals. Libya's alleged involvement in the discotheque bombing nine days ago in West Berlin that killed an American serviceman and injured more than 50 others. But his key officials are far from united about precisely what to do.

Meanwhile, two American carriers, the Coral Sea and the America, with a battle group of 29 other vessels, set in the Mediterranean south of Sicily yesterday, within speedy range of Libya, awaiting instructions.

Mr Robert Oakley, head of the State Department's Office of Counter-terrorism, gave a clear impression on American television yesterday that the Administration was reluctant to act against Libya without a substantial measure of European backing. He emphasized the international nature of the fight against terrorism, saying that "we have to have the understanding if not the support of our allies in order to deal with the longer-term problem".

He fell far short of saying that America had launched a series of reprisals in the discotheque bombing.

Win expected for Sunday trading Bill

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government expects a narrow majority in the Commons tonight for its Shops Bill, which removes restrictions on Sunday trading.

As the churches and trade unions muted yesterday in a final appeal to MPs to oppose the second reading, it seemed that the Government's tactic of allowing a free vote on later stages had bought off just enough rebels.

Up to 40 Tory MPs are expected to oppose the Bill in the vote at midnight. Over the weekend whips telephoned potential rebels, commending the concessions by the Government, and explaining that they would have opportunities to vote for compromise solutions.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington and a



Rabbi Toeff greeting the Pope outside the synagogue in Rome at the start of yesterday's historic visit.

Dublin's prayers for kidnap victim

By Richard Ford

Prayers for the safe release of Mrs Jennifer Guinness, the kidnap victim, were heard in Protestant and Roman Catholic churches throughout Dublin yesterday, as the Irish security forces worked to prevent any attempts to pay the £2 million ransom.

The missing woman's two daughters sat with bowed heads in a local church when prayers were offered for their mother's safe release from captivity but they said nothing as they departed.

But the involvement of a London-based security consultancy in the complex efforts to secure Mrs Guinness's release has alarmed the Gardaí and Irish government who are strongly opposed to paying ransom demands.

Mr Alan Dukes, the minister for justice, briefed Dr Garret FitzGerald about the kidnap of Mrs Guinness, aged 48, a mother of three, before warning of the dangers involved in paying money to kidnappers. "If you pay the money, it would be an open invitation to terrorism," he said.

Mandela 'liberation' pledge

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A defiant Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of the jailed African National Congress (ANC) leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, toured black townships in the Johannesburg area yesterday and told cheering supporters that 1986 would see the liberation of the oppressed masses of this country.

In Munsieville, near Krugersdorp, a town 30 miles north-west of Johannesburg, Mrs Mandela declared, in what seemed to be her most open advocacy to date of violence against the state: "Together, hand in hand, with our boxes of matches and our necklaces, we shall liberate this country".

The "necklace" - a rubber tyre doused in petrol, placed round the victim's body and set alight - is the name used in the townships for the most favoured method of killing blacks deemed to be Government collaborators.

Elsewhere on her tour, Mrs Mandela, saying that the time for speeches and debate was at an end, declared: "We shall return fire with fire".

She also seemed to hint that whites could no longer expect to be immune from black anger.

"We work in the white man's kitchen, we bring up the white man's children, we could have killed them at any time we wanted to," she said. Since April 2 Mrs Mandela has been deliberately flouting a banning order which prohibits her from taking part in political activity or addressing public gatherings, and she seemed yesterday to be daring the Government to take action.

A papal embrace for rabbi in Rome

From Peter Nichols, Rome

To the singing of a *Hallelujah*, the Pope made his historic entrance last night into Rome's synagogue. When he took his place at the right hand of the Chief Rabbi he was given a long round of applause, a personal tribute to the first Pope to come to a Jewish place of worship.

Some of the most vociferous applauders wore or waved blue and red scarves. Dr Elio Toaff, the Chief Rabbi, whispered to the Pope that they were all survivors of Nazi concentration camps. The Pope bowed towards them and gave them a two-fisted salute.

The Chief Rabbi managed only the opening phrase of his speech of welcome - "Your Holiness" - before the applause broke out again. The Pope said "thank you" in Hebrew and concluded his own speech by reciting from a psalm, first in Hebrew and then in Italian.

The packed synagogue received with enthusiasm the Pope's words on relations between Judaism and Christianity. "You are our dearly beloved brothers," he said, "and in a certain way it could be said that you are our elder brothers."

The Pope and the Chief Rabbi sat together on the floor, which meant they were clearly visible throughout the building. The Pope brought with him two cardinals, a bishop, two experts of the Vatican concerned with relations with the Jews and two parish priests.

The Pope listened to a full account of Jewish sufferings in Rome in the past, frequently at the hands of former holders of his office, from Signor Giacomo Segno, chairman of the Roman Jewish community.

He brought a three-part message to this community, which dates back to the days of Caesar and Augustus before Christianity had settled here.

First was the bond between Christianity and Judaism. The second point was: "No ancestral or collective blame can be imposed to the Jews as a people for what happened in Christ's passion; not indiscriminately to the Jews of that time, nor to those who came afterwards, nor to those of today."

"So any alleged theological justification for discriminatory measures or, worse still, for acts of persecution, is unfounded. The Lord will charge each one 'according to his own works', Jews and Christians alike."

The third point was that it was not lawful to say that the Jews were "repudiated or cursed" as if this were taught or could be deduced from the Old or New Testaments.



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MHA already houses and cares for nearly 1400 elderly people in residential Homes and Sheltered Housing schemes in the U.K. Now the planned building programme calls for a costly and sustained effort to achieve the target of more than 2000 places by the early 1990s.

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Civil Servant alleged to have given Czechs air secrets surrenders

By Stewart Tandler

A junior Civil Servant accused on television of passing secret aviation information to a Czechoslovak diplomat in London surrendered himself yesterday to Special Branch officers at Scotland Yard.

Mr Brian Gentleman, aged 27, a clerical assistant at the Department of Trade and Industry, left after several hours of questioning. A police spokesman said: "Inquiries are continuing. We are not saying any more at this stage."

Mr Gentleman is alleged to have given material on aviation engines and developments to Colonel Miroslav Merhaut, the aviation and military attaché at the Czech Embassy, during 1983.

The claim was made on the Channel Four programme, 30/20 Vision, on Saturday. The Observer reported yesterday that they had a copy of the confession signed by Mr Gentleman.

A transcript of the programme and other material was passed to Scotland Yard on Saturday night by Channel Four. Det Chief Supt Dennis Gunn, head of one of the Yard's Special Branch squads,

began investigations yesterday morning.

A prosecution under the Official Secrets Act would require the agreement of the Attorney General and he is likely to wait for reports from the police and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

According to the programme, in the spring of 1983 the Czech officer approached Mr Gentleman in a public house close to where the Civil Servant lives in a hostel, Bowden Court, behind Notting Hill Gate.

The hostel is close to the Czech Embassy and the two men took to meeting at the public house twice a week.

At that time Mr Gentleman worked in the Department of Trade and Industry's section that dealt with Rolls-Royce aero-engines. He is alleged to have passed the Czech verbal information on six important military and civil engines as well as information on the progress of the European Fighter Aircraft project.

He passed on one document, according to the programme, that was an internal departmental memorandum giving new Rolls-Royce file

designations and the Civil Service personnel cleared to handle them.

The programme said the Civil Servant confirmed technical material and gave the Czech briefings on politically sensitive memoranda prepared.

The relationship seems to have ended in the autumn of 1983 when Mr Gentleman is alleged to have tried to recruit another man staying at the hostel.

The man, referred to as Adrian in the television programme, was on the run from the police at the time. He was asked by the Czech to study a south London building to see if it was feasible to break in and bug it.

The building is M16's London station. Adrian made some sketches and was asked by the Czech diplomat if he would like to attend some sort of course in Czechoslovakia. Adrian went to the police and was passed on to M15.

Adrian told M15 everything except who had put him in touch with Colonel Merhaut. According to the programme they might have found out for themselves but they adopted the wrong tactics.



Mrs Guinness's daughters, Gillian (left) and Tanya, arriving at the Church of St Mary's, Howth, yesterday where prayers for their mother were offered (Photograph: John Manning)

Unionists in boycott rift

By Gavin Bell and Philip Webster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's determination to implement the Anglo-Irish agreement has created divisions among Ulster Unionist MPs over their three-month boycott of parliamentary sittings in protest at the accord.

With the Prime Minister preparing to make a further appeal this week to the leaders of the Unionist parties to go to talks at Downing Street, some Unionist MPs said yesterday that there should be new thinking about the boycott.

Mr Cecil Walker, the Official Unionist Party member for North Belfast, told The Times yesterday he believed that he and his colleagues should reconsider their strategy in view of the impasse. He disclosed that all 11 OUP and three Democratic Unionist Party members were planning to participate in a vote tonight, against a Sunday trading Bill, for the first time since they quit the chamber of the House in January.

Mr Walker said he remained resolutely opposed to the agreement signed last November, which gives Dublin a consultative role in Northern Ireland affairs, but he felt that Unionists should take their campaign against it into the House.

However, Mr Harold McCusker, deputy leader of the OUP, said they should strengthen the protest by withdrawing from Westminster completely. "Mr Walker is

expressing a personal view that I do not believe is shared by the majority of our colleagues," he said.

Mr McCusker confirmed that he was flying to London for the vote on Sunday trading, but added: "I will participate only because there is a prospect of the Government being defeated."

The split in Unionist ranks emerged as a wave of "loyalist" violence against the police in Northern Ireland appeared to be subsiding.

However, the UDA, the largest Protestant paramilitary organization, has given a warning that violence could flare again if police chiefs banned a parade planned by the Apprentice Boys of Derry in Portadown on May 5.

Unionist leaders are determined that only the suspension of the Anglo-Irish agreement will break the deadlock with the Government and enable all-party talks on devolution to begin.

Yesterday, Mr Peter Robinson, Democratic Unionist MP for Belfast East, said that it was imperative for Unionists not to relax their conditions for entering discussions.

Dubliners pray for kidnap victim

Continued from page 1

clinically calculating or it could mean they are not sure how to proceed with the thing.

He admitted a third party was involved in advising the Guinness family but denied this was hindering police inquiries. Persistent rumours that the Garda were unhappy at the involvement of Control Risks led Mr Guinness, aged 51, to issue a statement read by the police late on Saturday night insisting there was no rift between the family and the Garda.

Founded ten years ago, Control Risks specializes in offering security advice to multi-national companies and would-be kidnap victims as well as foreign governments.

"Our common object is the safe return of Jennifer, my wife, to her family. We are all working towards this," the statement said. Mr Guinness, who is recovering at his home from a black eye and wounds requiring three stitches which he received in a struggle with one of the armed raiders.

His two daughters, Tania, aged 20, and Gillian, aged 23, who was saved from abduction after her mother pleaded with the gang, were at the Church of St Mary's in Howth yesterday to hear prayers for their mother and the rest of the family.

The Roman Catholic and Protestant archbishops of Dublin had jointly called for prayers throughout the diocese but it was to their local Church of Ireland that the missing woman's daughters were driven.

Canon Frank Blennerhassett told the 150-strong congregation attending a family service that prayers were the Guinness family and the safe release of Mrs Guinness.

The two women heard that a special service for their mother had been held on Saturday and each evening until there is "good news" there would be a short prayer service at the church.

Today, 3,500 volunteers who will start visiting every house in the Irish Republic in connection with a national census will be briefed by police and told to report anything suspicious.

Alliance's sights on two early victories

By Philip Webster

Mr David Steel yesterday set the Liberal-SDP Alliance the objective of winning the Ryedale and West Derbyshire by-elections to revive its fortunes after the disappointment of Fulham.

The Liberal Party leader said that winning the two contests expected on May 8 was a realistic objective.

Alliance strategists now believe that good performances in the two by-elections, in both seats they lie second to the Conservatives, will be absolutely vital to maintaining its position as the third force in politics.

Mr Steel, interviewed on the BBC programme, This Week Next Week, said that Fulham should not be written up as the pattern for the whole country, because it was not.

The result, Mr Steel said, showed that there were four types of constituencies; those where the Alliance was in second place and attacking the Tories, those where the Alliance was attacking Labour and the Tories were out of the running, those where all three parties were in contention, such as Brecon and Radnor, and a small number where it was still a Tory-Labour battle. It was bad luck that Fulham was one of the latter, he said.

He said that people in Fulham had been convinced of the quality of the Labour candidate, but he did not believe for a minute that people were convinced that the Labour Party was now in good shape.

Mr Steel said he noticed the "bidding and cooing" between Mr Norman Tebbit and Mr Neil Kinnock over the Fulham result. He said it would be tenable for neither Mr Kinnock nor Mrs Thatcher to refuse to talk to the Alliance in the event of a hung Parliament.

Textile group in pay dispute

Wool textile workers, based mainly in West Yorkshire, are ready to take industrial action for the first time in more than 50 years over a pay dispute.

The Bradford-based Textile Group of the Transport and General Workers' Union claimed 8.5 per cent pay increase, plus two extra days holiday but the employers, the Confederation of British Wool Textiles, have offered 5.25 per cent.

Two killed in flat blaze

A man died yesterday in a vain attempt to save a teenage girl in a fire which swept through a flat at Prescott, Liverpool.

The bodies of Michelle Pickle, aged 13, and Mr David Powell, aged 45, were found in the badly damaged flat at Greenall Court.

London to compete with OU

London University's external degree system is being revamped and relaunched in an effort to recruit thousands of adults into higher education (Lucy Hodges writes).

The university is hoping to win back the premier position it held for more than 100 years as the institution where people could study for a degree without attending a university institution.

It is reopening its register to overseas students, launching new courses, and providing a face-to-face tutorial system, in addition to correspondence and audio-visual material, in competition with the Open University, which has become the main centre for distance learning for adults.

The service aims to concentrate on vocational degrees because these are the most popular. Three-quarters of its 17,000 students are registered for degrees in law, and there are plans to introduce a masters course in agrarian development, with Wye College, and an undergraduate degree in mathematics with King's and Royal Holloway and Bedford new colleges.

Teachers at Acas today for talks

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Talks start today between the teachers' unions and local authority employers at Acas, the conciliation service, on wide-ranging reforms in pay and working conditions.

The outcome should determine whether peace returns to classrooms or whether there are more strikes this year.

The talks are to be conducted by a three-man panel chaired by Sir John Wood, professor of law at Manchester University.

The opening session could be dominated by an argument about whether the biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, should attend.

The NUT refused to sign the pay deal that led to the setting up of the talks and the employers believe they should not be allowed to take part, particularly as the union is continuing with its industrial action.

However, Sir Pat Lowry, chairman of Acas, went out of his way to invite the NUT to participate, and they agreed to do so. An Acas spokesman said it was only sensible to have the biggest teaching

union taking part in talks about reforms.

While a lot of importance has been attached to the talks by the employers and the five smaller unions, there are few illusions about the difficult task ahead. Although the independent panel has six months to secure an agreement, it is going to be very hard to achieve.

All the teaching unions have different points of view, and Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has submitted his own paper, separate from that submitted by the employers. That means that the panel has to reconcile five strongly-held and opposing professional positions with two other differing views from those who run the system.

Even if agreement to a package of reforms is reached, there will be the question of whether the Government will fund it. The cost of a package is likely to come to much more than the £1.25 billion offered by Sir Keith. If the Government refuses to provide the money, classroom chaos will almost certainly resume.

Ports action

A boycott by customs officers of the new terminal four at Heathrow Airport is expected to end today, but union leaders have called for a countrywide work to rule, in protest at low manning levels.

Lawson pay restraint plea

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is likely to emphasize to union and employers' leaders today that lower wage settlements are needed to maintain economic growth, in spite of falling interest rates.

The Chancellor, fresh from the meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, will chair the meeting of the National Economic Development Council in London, amid further hopes of cuts in bank base rates.

Much of the discussion will centre on the Budget and

public spending plans, but pay could become an issue in the wake of the latest figures from the Confederation of British Industry showing that settlements in manufacturing industry averaged 6.25 per cent in the first three months.

The provisional figures, covering more than half the settlements expected in the first quarter, has remained at the same level since last autumn and is certain to result in pleas from ministers for restraint.

The latest pay level is only marginally lower than the

average of 6.5 per cent in the first nine months of 1985. Since last August, a third of the 478 settlements recorded in the CBI databank have been between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent, with a total of 40 per cent in the bands of 4.5 to 5.5 per cent and 6.5 to 7.5 per cent.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, might take the opportunity at today's meeting to warn the Chancellor of the growing opposition of unions to the Government's desire for wider share ownership and profit-sharing by employees.

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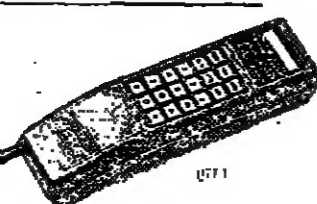
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Nitrogen and nitrates: 1 Tax and rationing as way to limit use

Of all the unsung contributors to historic changes in the human condition, nitrogen must come somewhere near the top of the list. Confronting the prophets of doom, most of the world not only can comfortably feed itself but also accumulate surpluses of unsold produce.

The main reason for this is the astonishing growth in crop yields. Hardier, more productive and more disease-resistant varieties have been nurtured by an ever-expanding range of highly efficient pesticides, with a significant effect on countries such as India, which was in a position to send more food aid to Ethiopia than the whole of the Soviet block.

But probably the single largest factor is the application of nitrogen fertilizers. So efficient are these products that serious arguments have been put forward within the farming community itself that they should be either rationed or taxed to discourage their use.

On the face of it, it seems a reasonable proposition: reduce input costs and reduce output. The farmer may have to settle for two tonnes of wheat an acre instead of three or four, but he has saved himself a lot of expense.

Unfortunately the equation does not work out quite so neatly. For it has been calculated that for an expenditure of 39p on fertilizers, the return in increased production is £2.88; in other words benefit exceeds cost by a ratio of seven to one.

Research at the world-famous Rothamsted research station during the past 140 years shows that wheat yields have almost quadrupled, while the cost per tonne has fallen by more than two thirds in real

terms. No farmer could reasonably be expected to ignore those figures.

Nor, for that matter, could consumers. It has been crudely estimated that, without fertilizers, the retail price of a large white loaf would be more than £1.

Sweden and Finland have experimented with taxes on nitrogen fertilizers, of 25 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. For a short term farmers did reduce their usage, but it was not long before they decided that it was economically sounder to pay the tax than to accept reduced yields.

There are other objections to such a tax, notably that it would weigh disproportionately heavily on those least

able to afford it, namely small beef and dairy farmers, as fertilizer is used just as widely on grassland as on arable crops.

Proponents of taxation argue that it would have a dual benefit. The revenue could be used to subsidize part of the cost of disposing of surpluses, and any reduction in the use of nitrogen would have environmental advantages in lowering the nitrate level in soil and water.

But Mr Tony Williams, business development manager of ICI's agricultural division, estimates that to cover the cost of the intervention board in the United Kingdom, the tax would have to be pitched at a level of about 300 per cent, with drastic effects on consumer prices.

The alternative of a rationing system is seen as being impossibly complex and expensive to administer, creating a whole new bureaucracy.

Tomorrow: Health risk

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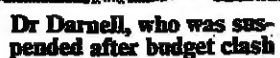
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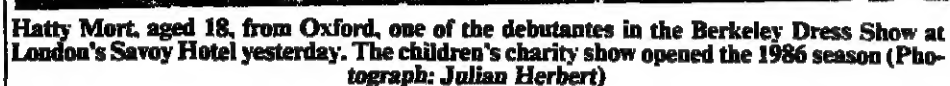
By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent



It also criticized Trent for the way he handled the case. A

people suspect there must have been something pretty awful, something immoral or some financial impropriety. It has not been pleasant for either us or the children."

Sea-water



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tion is to extend the discovery for the design of motors for the

**neering Laboratory, at East
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a drill, a saw or a wrench
would be sea water.

crease demand for *The Times* and readers are advised to make sure their copies are ordered at the newsagents.

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

system will not cope with demand over the next 25 years without bringing an

to draw up immediate plans for a reservoir, opening soon after the turn of the century.

By Frances Gibb -
Legal Affairs Correspondent

On top of that, there is the corroboration rule. This places a serious legal obstacle in the way of a child in a situation that is already

Field	Hospital
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A teleshopping experiment at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear

Tesco Stores launched the scheme in 1980 with help from the local authority, EBC

When all receipts are included by contributions from 10,000 sightseers, he hopes to hand in a cheque for £15,000 to the hospital.

When all receipts are in, fuelled by contributions from 6,000 sightseers, he hopes to hand in a cheque for £15,000 to the hospital.

Mr Gaskell does not plan to

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Hailsham commissions £375,000 studies to speed up civil justice

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor has commissioned three teams of management consultants at a cost of £375,000 to look at how litigation in the fields of debt, commerce and housing can be reformed and made cheaper and quicker for the consumer.

The three studies are part of the full-scale review of civil justice announced by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone in February 1985 to reduce delays, costs and complexity in the civil courts. It is expected to be complete by the end of 1987.

Management consultants are already examining two other main areas of business as part of the review: personal injuries, on which a consultation paper has been issued, and small claims.

The debt study, to be carried out by Touche Ross management consultants, will look at the procedure for recovering debts in the High Court and county court.

Debt claims comprise by far the biggest component of the work of the civil court, accounting for "a substantial proportion of their resources", the Lord Chancellor's Department says in briefing papers published today.

There is also considerable

long-standing complaint about the efficiency of the enforcement system. Creditors and solicitors complain about the county court bailiff service, saying that bailiffs are not vigorous enough in pursuing debts and recovering them.

There are also complaints about the difficulty of obtaining information from the county courts about the progress of warrants of execution, or reasons why money has not been obtained.

One further complaint is that the enforcement system as a whole is heavy handed and inept, and that it tends to proceed without adequate knowledge of a debtor's means and circumstances.

The study of housing litigation, to be carried out by Bristol University's school of advanced urban studies, will look at applications to the county courts for possession, the work of rent assessment committees and why litigants do not always pursue them through the courts.

The Lord Chancellor's Department says that at present, complexity in procedures in the courts and tribunals may "slow down business, increase costs and frighten away those

whose claims ought to be coming forward for hearing". The main housing litigation is: applications for possession of residential premises, landlords against tenants and mortgagees against borrowers, who are in arrears over rent or payments.

The county courts handle 127,000 such applications a year and the High Court 4,000.

The commercial study will be done by Coopers and Lybrand Associates who will look at the heavily overloaded commercial court in London.

Delay is a big concern: current cases expected to last four weeks or more are not getting hearing dates before 1988. Costs are also of concern.

The number of cases before the court has grown rapidly. Although the court hears complex cases, the department believes there is "certainly room to simplify proceedings and thus to have an impact on delay and cost".

All these studies will lead to consultation papers. In addition, general proposals for reform of court procedure and structure will be drawn from all five studies and put into a consultation paper to be issued next January.

Mycock case leads to police changes

By Peter Davenport

Senior police officers have carried out a review of procedures for the identification of suspects in criminal cases after a complaint from lawyers acting for Mr Anthony Mycock, the man freed from jail after his case was highlighted by the BBC's *Rough Justice* programme.

Officers in the Greater Manchester police force, where Mr Mycock lives, have since been instructed that existing guidelines must be "strictly complied with".

Mr Mycock's solicitor, Mr Robert Lizar, said yesterday: "I am pleased with the response from the police and we feel we have achieved something positive."

"It does not alter the fact that Mr Mycock served time in prison for a crime he did not commit, but we hope it will help to prevent the same thing ever happening to anyone else."

Mr Lizar believes that if the guidelines had been followed in the case his client would never have been convicted.

Mr Mycock was freed by the Court of Appeal in December last year after serving half of a five-year sentence for robbery.

Mr Mycock, who is unemployed, is seeking compensation from the Home Office for the time he spent in prison.



One of the 300 pupils aged between 13 and 17, from four Northamptonshire comprehensive schools, who performed Smetana's opera, *The Battered Bride*, in the piazza at Covent Garden yesterday (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Professor accuses senior scientists over research cash

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Professor R J P Williams, a leading British scientist, has condemned the way millions of pounds of government money is distributed for research.

He says: "It is senior British scientists at the highest levels in the University Grants Committee, the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, the Science and Engineering Research Council, the Medical Research Council and the Royal Society who have switched their styles."

Professor Williams, FRS and an eminent chemist, who is Napier Royal Society research professor and a fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, says that "ability has been substituted by self-interest".

His attack, which is unparalleled, comes in an article entitled *The Corridors of Cash* in the journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

He asks: "When one senior scientist receives over £300,000 and another, nearly £1 million, without proper peer review, what can the younger scientific community but deduce? Even if it is not corrupt, it certainly looks corrupt."

Professor Williams is anxious about the low morale in science departments because of the poor regard for civil research that the Government has shown.

He says: "The fact that the UK spends far more money on defence than on civil research, or medical, social, and educational activities compared with other European countries, is a cause for anxiety for many scientists."

But he adds: "Recently, we have witnessed a new and sadly divisive consequence, which many scientists find even harder to understand and also find deeply distressing: I refer to the way in which new money for science research has been distributed."

"Committees of elder men, chosen from other committees, and given information on half a sheet of paper (per £500,000), with committee advice not open to peer review, cannot provide sound judgement."

"I should like to know who invented this ridiculous game that can only be won by those establishment figures who have committee pull."

"I do not believe that this is a government plan. It is the work of some scientists."

Prince to present enterprise awards

By Charles Kneivt, Architecture Correspondent

The Prince of Wales is to present awards and commendations to winners of *The Times/RIBA Community Enterprise Scheme 1985-86* at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London on June 13.

The Prince, who is patron of the scheme, has also expressed an interest in visiting some of the projects later in the year.

Nearly 200 projects were submitted after the launch of the scheme last September. They include self-help and self-build housing, community facilities, environmental improvements, including urban farms and adventure playgrounds, and small business workshops with potential for job creation.

Mr Rod Hackney, chairman of the assessors and a community architect, said yesterday: "The response has been tremendous, highlighting the extent of community enterprise that is thriving throughout the country."

Awards and commendations will be presented for the most "imaginative, viable and need-fulfilling" projects. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is providing grants for the best entries, which will also receive certificates and plaques.

The scheme is unusual in that entries are being assessed during the development and building phases and not judged solely on the end result.

The eight assessors have visited most of the 33 short-listed entries, including housing co-operatives in Glasgow and Liverpool, an urban farm in Cardiff and the barnyard project at Bedales School, Hampshire.

The visits, which include Northern Ireland, will be completed by the end of the month.

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Coal board cuts price for CEBG

Prices of some coal sold to the Central Electricity Generating Board have been reduced by the National Coal Board to stay competitive with the reduced cost of oil (Our Industrial Editor writes).

The coal board is having talks with the CEBG on possible variations for supplies made after the end of February. The coal board maintains that any adjustments, which apply only to some coal supplies, will be only marginal and should raise no difficulties with its external financing limits.

But the Cabinet, which last week discussed the electricity supply industry's prospects of passing savings to the consumer, appears to have accepted that the coal board should be allowed to run up losses to remain competitive.

If coal prices were seriously out of line with international energy costs the CEBG might well adjust its long-term strategy on the mix of fuels used to the detriment of coal.

Half-price homes in mix-up

Tenants on a new Liverpool council housing estate have discovered that they are entitled to buy their semi-detached homes for half what they cost to build, because of a mix-up by the ruling Labour group.

The £4.8 million Joliffe Street estate in Toxteth was under construction as homes for sale when Labour came to power in 1983. Labour converted them into homes for rent.

But vital approval was not obtained from the Department of the Environment. It means householders can buy a three-bedroom semi by claiming a 50 per cent discount.

There are 207 and opposition councillors reckon the loophole could cost ratepayers more than £2 million.

A spokesman for Liverpool City Council said: "The loss to the council will depend on how many tenants choose to buy their house. Market values have dropped on the estate so the houses aren't worth the price for which they were initially built."

Mountain rescue team denies being ghoulish

By Ronald Farr

A Scottish mountain rescue team has been criticized for being over-zealous and "lurking below the crag awaiting employment".

Mr Robin Campbell, president of the Mountaineering Council for Scotland, complained in the latest issue of *Climber and Rambler* magazine that the Cairngorm mountain rescue team had been taking its snow vehicles into the Corrie an Sneachda on Cairngorm this winter without obvious cause. "This behaviour detracted greatly from the ambience of the corrie and amounted to over-zealous rescue provision," he said.

There had been complaints to the council, Mr Campbell said, and readers were invited to report any unwelcome attention from rescue personnel.

But Mr John Allen, deputy leader of the rescue team, said the attack was unjust and totally without foundation.

"We think we do a fairly good job and do it well and quietly. We are all mountaineers and the rescue team is a secondary pursuit," he said. Even so, the team had taken part in 15 big rescues in the Cairngorms this year.

They did have a small tracked vehicle which cut the time taken to transport injured climbers or bodies from the hills. It was used on only two or three training exercises a year. The team kept a low profile, he said, and the implications that they were ghouls waiting for bodies to drop off the crags was scurrilous.

Other mountain rescue specialists in Scotland supported the Cairngorm team. One Scottish climber and rescuer said that in bad winter weather when the Cairngorms could quickly become dangerous, a well-organized rescue team was essential. "If a team is to work smoothly and efficiently it has to practise. That is surely obvious," he said.

Mr Hamish MacInnes, of Glencoe, a mountaineer and rescue specialist with more than 25 years experience, said he thought that some few individuals were perhaps more interested in rescuing people than in climbing mountains, but asked if that was a bad thing. "They are genuinely interested in helping people and although that may seem a bit alien to some climbers I believe their motives are good."

THIS BOOKLET SHOWS WAYS TO OPEN MORE DOORS TO MORE JOBS.

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There is an important range of schemes to enable people to acquire the skills, and firms to acquire the skilled workforce, essential for tomorrow's industry and commerce.

The booklet emphasises the right vocational training for school-leavers, schemes for adult workers to be trained and re-trained, and includes details of help for industry - especially small firms - to enable them to train their workforce. And keep them trained.

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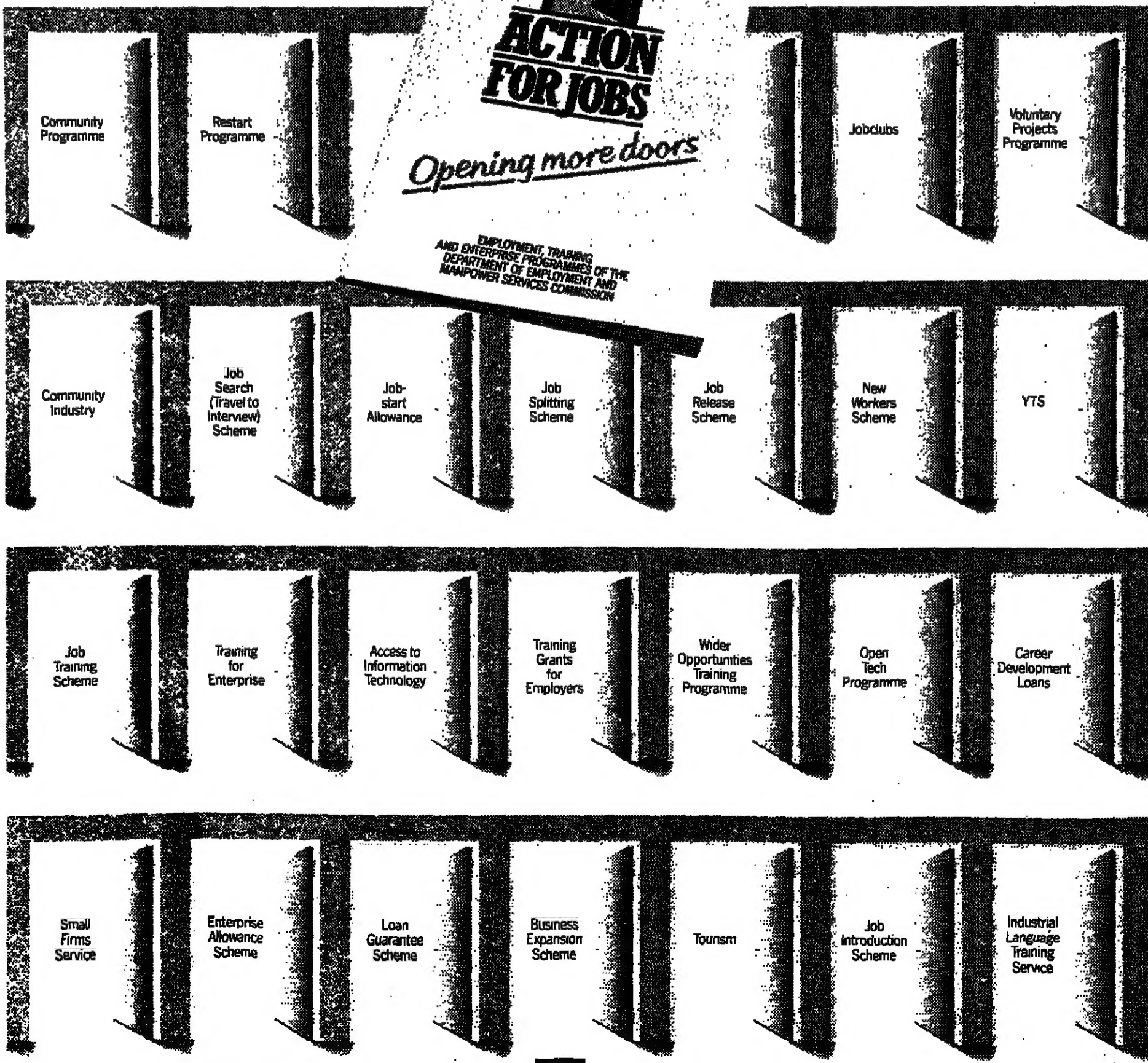
There are also schemes which help those who have been out of work for a long time to get back into work again on projects which benefit them and the communities in which they live.

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The creation of flourishing small businesses is a major factor in the development of our economy, and for generating new employment opportunities. This booklet explains the various ways in which enterprise is being helped and encouraged to overcome the many difficulties and obstacles.

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Academy joins campaign to reform law on artists' rights

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Arts Council and the Royal Academy have joined forces in an unprecedented campaign to bring a change of heart by the Government on reform of the law on copyright.

The campaign, on behalf of an estimated 30,000 artists in Britain, coincides with the publication this week of the White Paper on copyright law. It is being launched amid widespread speculation that the Government will fail, in the White Paper, to reform the controversial section 4(2) of the Copyright Act 1956, which deprives artists of the copyright of works carried out on commission.

The section says that a person who commissions a photograph, painting or drawing of a portrait or an engraving and pays for it, owns not only the work but also the copyright.

The academy and council have taken up the issue because, they say, there is no other body or union to represent artists' interests. They want to bring the law into line with that in the rest of Europe, and with the Berne Convention, so that artists would automatically retain the copy-

right of commissioned works, unless they entered a contract to assign it to the person paying for the work.

Mr Rory Coonan, art director of the council, said: "This will improve the bargaining power of artists vis-à-vis the commissioners." The reform was particularly important because of the rapid growth in art patronage, encouraged by Arts Council schemes in which the council paid up to half the cost of a commission, although it had no ownership of the work.

The Government is expected to resist the reform on the ground that it would overturn a fundamental principle of English law; that a person who buys a chattel buys all the rights in it.

The White Paper will be the first significant overhaul of copyright law for years and will extend the definition of intellectual property to products of new technology.

The arts organizations are concerned also that the Government sees the opportunity to improve and expand the definition of works of art, which under the copyright Act is "works of artistic craftsmanship".

Government proposes levy on blank tapes

The steps to be taken to beat tape piracy and illicit copying of video tape, audio tape and computer programs, will be among measures in the White Paper on copyright (Bill Johnston writes).

Some are expected to be controversial, such as a levy on blank audio tape. Many groups with vested interests have been trying in recent months to influence the Government's policy on copyright.

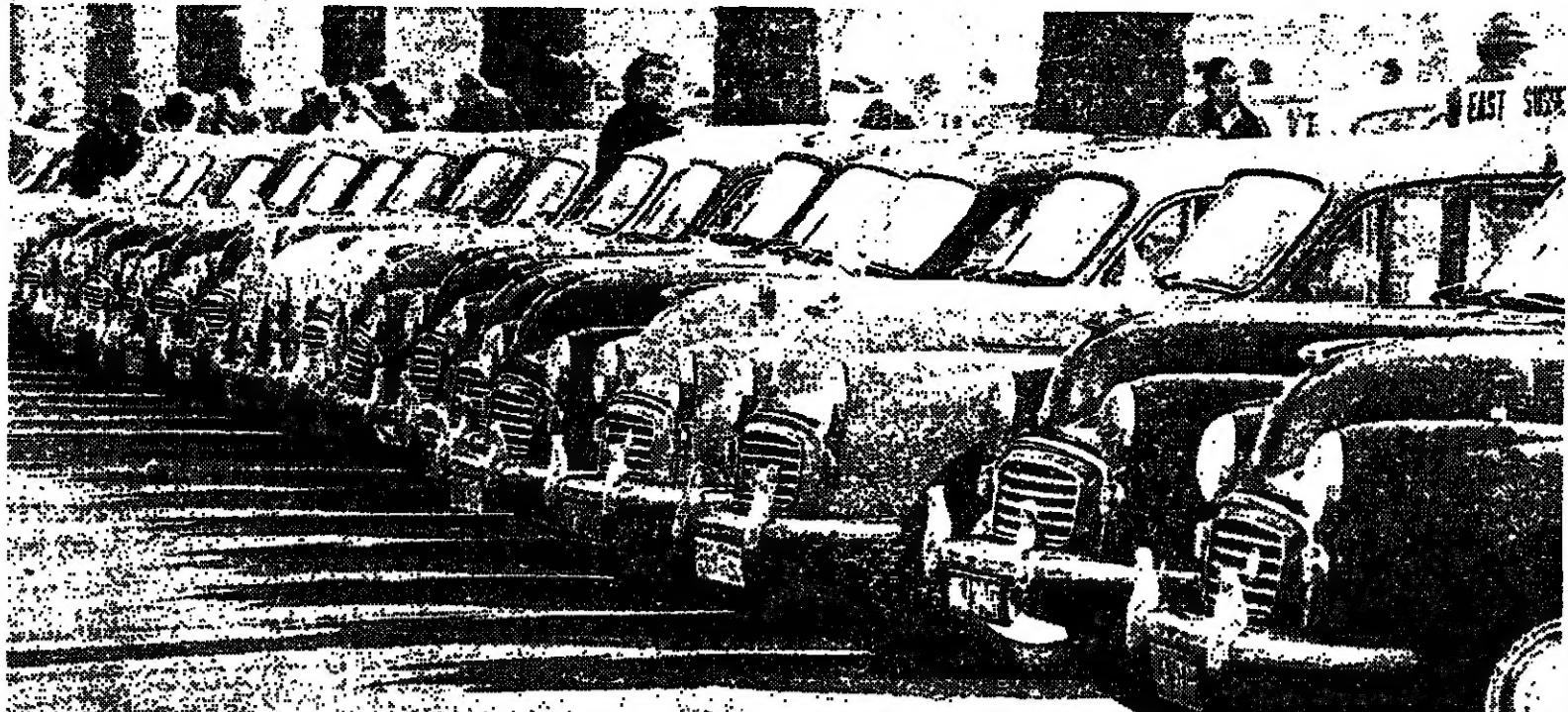
The computer industry has its own campaign called Federation Against Software Theft (Fasit), which it maintains costs the industry £150 million a year. The music industry has been lobbying to place a levy

on blank audio and video tape, maintaining that millions of pounds is lost each year through illicit copying.

The Government received more than a 1,000 responses to its Green Paper on copyright last year, almost all opposed to a levy. It appears likely that a levy will not be imposed on blank video tape but there will be a 10 per cent surcharge on audio tapes.

The Consumers' Association has opposed the levies, as have the manufacturers of tape, who are preparing to take legal action against any government in Europe which imposes a levy.

The White Paper is expected to be used as a framework by the EEC.



More than 300 Morris Minors lining up in Battersea Park for the start of the fourth annual London to Brighton Fun Run organized by the West Sussex Morris Minor Owners Club yesterday

'Seveso' battle cry down at the Welsh farm

By Tim Jones

The animals are dying again on Bullsnoor Farm and Mr Colin Haines claims financial ruin is staring him in the face. After more than 40 years of farming the rich Usk Valley in South Wales, his flock and herd have been decimated and the 100-acre farm is grossly under-utilized.

Mr Haines is one of the protagonists in a saga which has led to accusations that the inefficient burning of poisonous wastes has caused severe abnormalities in children and horrible deaths for animals.

The controversy has led to threats of High Court action. One Scottish farmer is awaiting a legal aid claim which he hopes will enable him to initiate a £2 million damages suit.

Parents of deformed chil-

dren and farmers whose animals have suffered claim their troubles arise from an incinerator plant at Pontypool and a similar facility, now closed, at Bonybridge, Scotland, operated by Re-Chem International. The accusations are denied by the company, which can produce independent evidence from six public bodies stating that the plant is safe.

However, the well-organized protest body claims to have obtained opinions from its own from internationally respected experts who allege that procedures at the plant may be inadequate.

Although the company has embarked on a sophisticated public relations exercise and implemented a programme of site visits, the protests are unabated. More than 18,000 local people have signed a

petition calling for the closure of the Pontypool plant pending a public inquiry. The local Torfaen Borough Council is taking legal action on behalf of four people.

If the issue ever reaches the courts the protesters and individuals affected will try to prove that the incomplete burning of waste, in particular polychlorinated biphenyls, causes the formation of dangerous substances, including dioxines, which are among the most lethal chemicals.

The company, in turn, can produce counter evidence from the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate, the UK Atomic Energy Authority, the state veterinary service, the Welsh Water Authority and the Welsh Health Authority. The battle remained undi-

minished at the weekend when a group of protesters demonstrated outside the Dutch Embassy in London, calling for a suspension on the export of waste chemicals to Pontypool.

Their petition said: "We feel hopeful that the Dutch government and the Dutch public will find it morally indefensible to continue to export their problems to another part of the world where the old and inefficient Re-Chem incinerator is causing acute anxiety to many thousands of local people."

However, at a company press conference last week, Professor Christopher Rappe, of the University of Umea, Sweden, said: "There is now an accumulation of scientific evidence that proves that Re-Chem's operations do not pollute the environment."

That is small consolation to Mr Haines and his colleagues. He said: "What I resent most of all is the accusation by the company, which they published, that my problems were due to bad farming methods."

Before Re-Chem moved into the area my farm was flourishing and I almost owned it. But once the plant arrived, my animals started dying.

He added: "We are convinced that wind-borne particles are dropped on our land, which is natural catchment area. In spite of the denials many experts have no doubt that our animals are suffering from chemical poisoning. We visited Seveso in Italy after their disaster and scientists who saw photographs of our cattle had no hesitation in identifying the problem."

Sunshine warning on skin cancers

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Skin cancer caused by sunbathing is a rapidly growing problem in Britain and the public should be alerted to the potential hazards before it gets worse, a leading specialist has said.

The condition is a preventable disease which is increasing "to a frightening degree" in the United States, Australia and South Africa, with British cases soaring because of increased travel abroad and more outdoor activities. Professor Ronald Marks has reported in a medical journal.

"As the sun-worship cult gains strength, outdoor activities increase in popularity, and holidays in the Mediterranean sun become ever cheaper, it is important to know how to reduce the risk of sun-induced skin cancer," Professor Marks, of the University of Wales College of Medicine, says.

A worrying aspect is that tests on sun-screen products have suggested that although sunbathers who apply such oils or creams to their bodies do not burn, they none the less sustain "significant injury" to the skin.

This is a cause for concern. It suggests that damaging radiation may still reach skin protected from burning. The dermatology professor says in this month's issue of the *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of London*.

Half a million new cases of non-melanoma skin cancer were expected to be reported in America last year, and 1,000 cases a week were being reported in the state of Victoria in Australia.

At Professor Marks' clinic in Cardiff, there were almost 400 cases, equal to 8.5 per cent of all new patients, in 1984.

"In countries such as the US, Australia and South Africa, skin cancer is now a major public health problem," Professor Marks says. Although the damage caused by chronic sun exposure is seldom fatal, considerable illness results.

"Campaigns have been mounted in those countries to make the public more aware of the danger of sunbathing. Our problem in the UK is smaller but rapidly growing in size because of the increased opportunities for travel, and the growing emphasis on outdoor activities."

New hope for depression sufferers

A number of new substances are being tested as possible anti-depressant drugs that eliminate side-effects and act more quickly than existing ones (Our Science Editor writes).

Promising results with one of these preparations used in medical trials in the UK and other European countries are reported in the latest issue of *Chemistry in Britain*.

The active ingredient, called idazoxan, is more specific in

the way it behaves in the body, according to Dr Christopher Chapleo, head of medicinal chemistry in the research laboratories of Reckitt and Colman.

The new medicine still relies on the belief in the catecholamine theory of depression, providing a biochemical explanation for the condition although in practice the causes of depression are not known.

The biochemical view pro-

poses that depression results from a shortage in the brain of one of the nervous systems chemical messengers, nor-adrenaline, which is a catecholamine.

The amount of the nor-adrenaline is regulated by a number of different mechanisms, and the current generation of drugs works by trying to modify more than one of the processes that lead to breakdown of the biochemical, resulting in side effects.

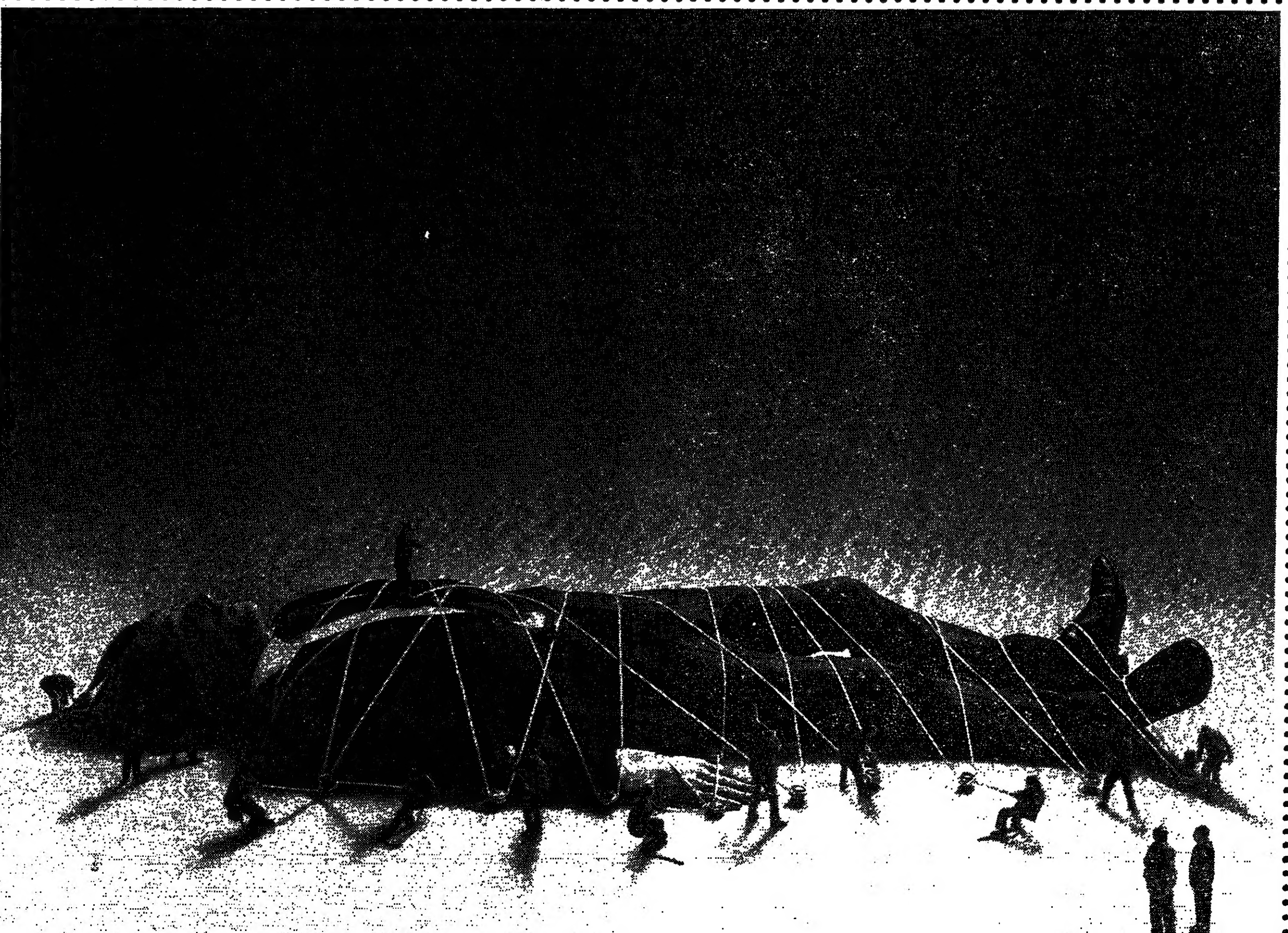
Editors given advice on race and colour

The Press Council's view on publishing someone's race or colour serves the interest of better community relations and should be respected, Mr Kenneth Morgan, the council's director, said.

He told a conference of the Guild of British Newspaper Editors at Wishaw, near Birmingham, that colour or race should only be included if it was relevant.

"Where the story is that police are searching for someone, or where colour was the cause of a crime or where an article is discussing racial issues, there is clear relevance," Mr Morgan said.

"But where someone is simply accused or convicted of a general crime, to introduce the fact that he is black is likely to be both irrelevant and prejudicial."



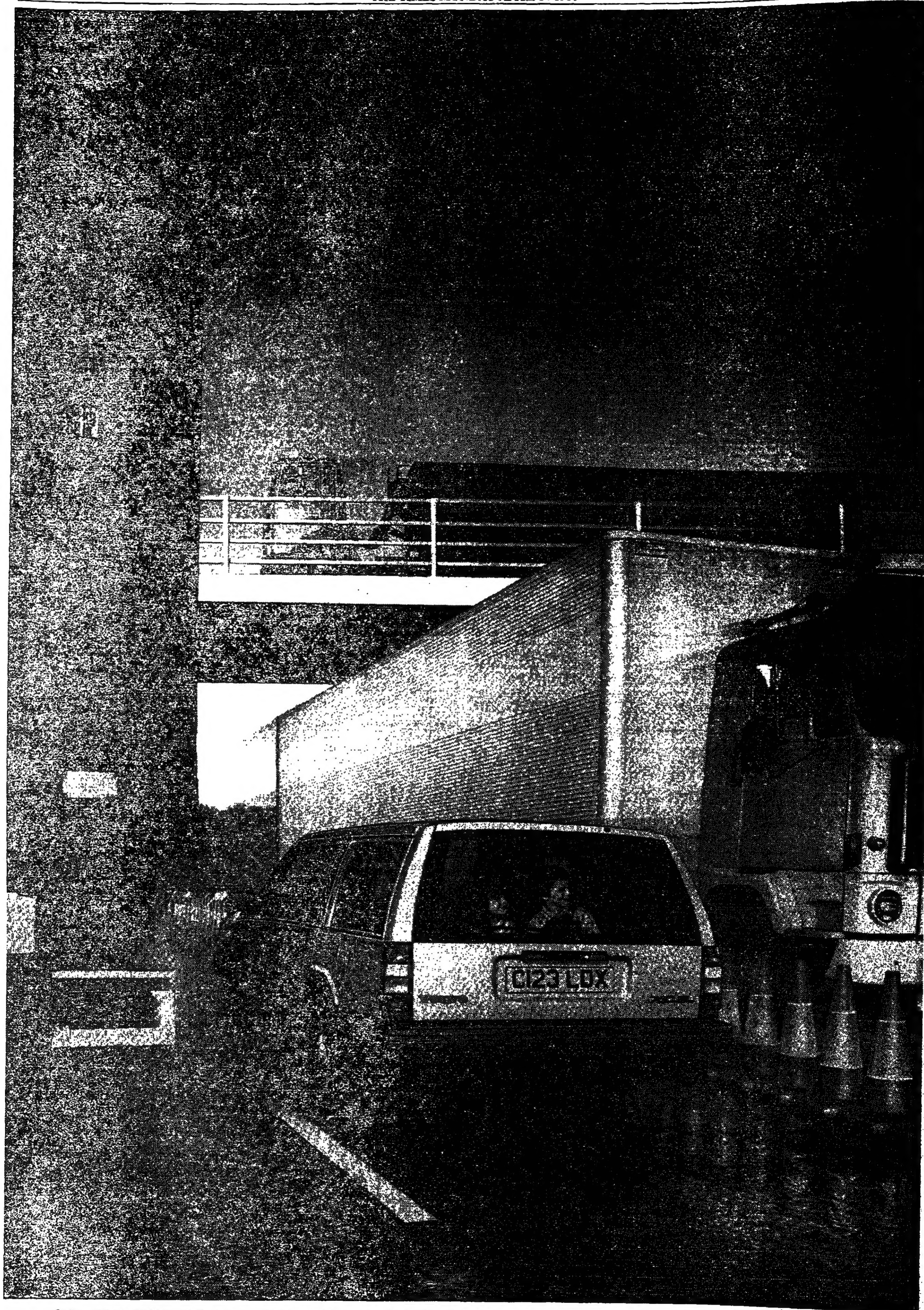
In 1985, British industry found itself under more pressure than ever before—from red tape, bureaucracy and restrictions.

John Percival

Sarah's husband were rejected by a people whose life had

Sarah Hemming

ning, though, was Eugene Bozza. The operas, ballets and



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The Libya crisis: Controversy mounts throughout the world

Arab League confirms its solidarity with Gadaffi if US attacks

Tunis (Reuters) — The 21-member Arab League said yesterday that it would support Libya in the event of another military strike by the United States.

"The Arab League reaffirms the solidarity of Arab states (with Libya) in the face of all threats of aggression directed against its security," it said in a communiqué.

"For the second time in less than a month (Libya) is the target of major threats from the United States which thus violates international custom and law and exposes the security of the region to grave dangers," the communiqué said, according to the Tunisian news agency.

US battleships are gathered within striking distance of Libya, which Washington blames for bomb attacks in Europe.

"The campaign orchestrated by the US... is based on obscure accusations which are not justified by any tangible proof," the communiqué said.

"It is unthinkable that, every time certain small groups of desperate and irresponsible people commit isolated acts of violence, the responsibility for such acts is imputed to any Arab country."

"This type of violence by desperate people... cannot be combated by more muscular terrorism of a great power, but by eradication of the profound causes at the root of rising despair."

● DAMASCUS: The Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr Farouk al-Sharaa, yesterday pledged all-out support for Libya in its confrontation with the US in the Gulf of Sirte, the Syrian Arab News Agency said (AP reports).

The official news agency said that Mr al-Sharaa held a "lengthy round of negotiations" with the Libyan Foreign Minister, Mr Kamel al-Mansour, after he flew to Damascus for an announced visit earlier yesterday.

"Talks were about the mobilization of the American Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean... for a new aggression against Libya," the agency reported.

It said that Mr al-Sharaa "stressed that Syria stands firmly next to Libya with all its potential in confronting the premeditated aggression against Libya."

● NEW YORK: Malta appealed for restraint in the Mediterranean yesterday as the United Nations Security Council convened on the issue (Zoriana Fysariwsky writes).

Thatcher baulks at plea on US bases

Continued from page 1

from Britain the Americans had hoped to use their F111 bombers, of which there are about 150 stationed at Lakenheath in Suffolk and Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire.

It is not clear that there was any strong military argument for using the British-based bombers, for the carrier-based aircraft of the US Navy off Libya carry all the power likely to be needed.

It is probable that the motive behind the American request was the political one of wishing it to be seen that at least one ally - Britain - was cooperating in the action.

Mrs Thatcher's apparent reluctance to see British bases used was supported by her political opponents yesterday.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said it made sense. Military action, he said, could do nothing to diminish terrorism.

Mr David Steel said British bases should not be used. Britons in Libya would immediately become hostages, he said. "The Prime Minister is right to take a cautious attitude."

There was scepticism yesterday over reports from Libya that foreign nationals had been moved into potential target areas as a means of deterring American attacks.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said last night that the British consul in Tripoli, Mr Hugh Dunnachie, had had contacts with a large number of organizations employing Britons in Libya, but none had any information of Britons being moved into possible target areas.



Private Robert Beecham weeping at the Detroit funeral of his brother, Kenneth, an army sergeant, killed in the April 5 bomb attack on a Berlin discotheque, blamed on Libya. West Berlin police have tightened border controls to bar terrorists.

Israeli Cabinet in renewed battle over finance post

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

"They don't seem to realize that they are driving an entire nation out of its mind," the mass-circulation *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper said of Israel's politicians yesterday.

It was reflecting the public mood of bemused disbelief as the Cabinet crisis that seemed settled last week erupted again at the weekend.

The issue which threatened to destroy the agreement on a reshuffle that would move the Finance Minister, Mr Yitzhak Modai, to the Foreign Ministry was the future of the Finance portfolio when Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, hands over the premiership to Mr Yitzhak Shamir, his Likud counterpart, in October.

Labour spokesmen insisted yesterday that Mr Shamir had agreed to Mr Peres's demand that Mr Modai, a Likud member, should not return to the Treasury after the rotation.

Labour and Likud Knesset factions both held meetings yesterday to formulate the positions they would take at the Cabinet meeting, scheduled for yesterday morning but postponed until last night.

Labour decided firmly that Mr Peres would demand assurances that Mr Modai would not return to the Treasury. If these were not received he would go ahead and dismiss Mr Modai, who had angered Mr Peres by criticizing him and his economic policies.

Likud was expected to reject the demand out of hand. Moreover, both Mr Shamir and Mr Modai, who last week favoured a reshuffle under which they would swap the Foreign and Finance portfolios until October, had apparently changed their minds by yesterday.

Mr Shamir was quoted as saying that he was no longer prepared to become Finance Minister, while Mr Modai said he had no intention of swapping portfolios.

Mr Peres made clear yesterday that he was determined to bring matters to a head at the Cabinet meeting. Should he dismiss Mr Modai, Likud ministers are expected to follow the Finance Minister out of the Government.

This would leave Mr Peres with a narrow majority, provided the three small religious parties remained in the coalition — which is by no means assured. Should Mr Peres lose his majority, the Government would fall, requiring elections.

Man in the News

Troubleshooter for Reagan

From Christopher Thomas Washington

General Vernon Walters is an original Cold War Paladin. This son of a Englishman, troubleshooter, extraordinary linguist, and the confidante/translator to several Presidents, has spent a lifetime in high-stakes, covert work. His mission to Europe is a rare entry into high-publicity diplomacy.

He succeeded Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick early last year as US Ambassador to the United Nations, which gives him cabinet rank and a place on the National Security Council.

He said pointedly that he would not be a mere messenger, a remark aimed at career diplomats who scoffed that he had spent much of his career as a simple conveyor of secret diplomatic messages.

He is a self-made man who rose through the ranks of the Army during the war and became an intelligence officer whose linguistic ability drew the attention of many generals, diplomats and five Presidents. He speaks seven languages, five of them fluently.

President Reagan brought him out of retirement in 1981, making him Ambassador-at-Large and the State Department's peripatetic troubleshooter.

Since then the general, a bachelor who neither smokes nor drinks but who has a voracious appetite for sweets, has travelled hundreds of thousands of miles on unadvertised missions.

Since the Second World War he has been involved in secret US government missions, including the Anglo-Iranian oil crisis in the 1950s.

Mr David Steel said British bases should not be used. Britons in Libya would immediately become hostages, he said. "The Prime Minister is right to take a cautious attitude."

EEC tries to forestall US military action

Continued from page 1

only has strong trade links with Libya, and a sizeable community of German oil workers in Tripoli, but also fears further attacks on US servicemen in West Germany.

European leaders still want detailed evidence from Washington that Colonel Gadaffi is behind recent terrorism, including the TWA bomb and the West Berlin discotheque attack. But they do not want to be accused of "appeasing" terrorists and their backers.

The EEC will today consider a new report on anti-terrorism produced by an EEC working group. The Trevi Report, named after the group's Italian chairman, proposes stronger international co-operation to identify both terrorists and Arab states that abuse diplomatic privilege in the West to arm and finance fanatical gunmen.

The European view is that patient and determined co-operation and pooling of intelligence will pay off.

Some American officials accuse EEC countries such as Italy and France of turning a blind eye to Arab terrorists who pass through their territory.

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Relatives stunned by life term for UK engineer

Relatives and friends of Mr James Abra of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, the British engineer jailed for life in Libya on spying charges, were stunned and dismayed at his sentence. They had been praying for his release and early return home.

The family home is a bungalow on an estate not far from Hitchin railway station, in the middle of the commuter belt.

Neighbours and friends described Mr Abra, aged 58, and his Czechoslovak-born wife, Rudka, as a "very nice, quiet couple". Neighbours said they did not mix a great deal locally in a social way. They "kept themselves very much to themselves".

Before the trial, which ended on Saturday, a light often burnt in their porch. But yesterday the house was deserted, and Mrs Abra was not available.

Mr Abra's brother, John, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, said on Saturday before the verdict: "There is a lot happening out there (Libya). We are all praying for good news." But after the verdict, in a stunned, depressed atmosphere, he said: "There is nothing further I can say."

Mr James Abra was accused of trying to smuggle secret documents out of Libya. He pleaded not guilty.

He was arrested in Libya on June 20 last year while working as a field electronics engineer with Plessey Radar. The prosecution accused him of passing classified information in company documents to Plessey Radar and a foreign government.

Mr Abra appeared in court in Libya on several occasions earlier this year, when the hearings were adjourned.

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Progress made on Falklands in exploratory Mexico talks

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Parliamentarians from Britain and Argentina met here for exploratory talks on the Falklands dispute described by the head of the British delegation, Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury, as "a little piece of history".

He said that the possibility of ceasing hostilities and restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries had been brought nearer.

"The Argentines said the question of sovereignty over the islands no longer had to be the top item on a possible negotiations agenda," Mr Crouch told *The Times*.

But British source close to the meeting warned against talking of a breakthrough, saying that passions still remained high on both sides.

Mr Crouch and seven other MPs, three Conservatives and four Labour, left Mexico yesterday at the end of a week-long meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The eight British MPs met eight members of the Argentine Congress for more than

an hour on Thursday night in an hotel room.

But the British delegation made it clear that should negotiations between the two governments take place, Britain, in the words of one MP, would not be in the game of beginning a process aimed at transferring the islands' sovereignty.

In an interview with *The Times* at the weekend, the most senior member of the Argentine delegation, Senator Julio Amodeo, confirmed that sovereignty did not have to be "number one on the list".

He said Argentina wanted to begin talks with "an open agenda", but then, appearing to contradict himself, he insisted that the sovereignty issue would have, categorically, to be included, although it could remain as the last point of negotiation.

● **PORT STANLEY:** Falkland islanders joined families of 56 British servicemen killed in the 1982 war in a memorial service held shortly after the fourth anniversary of the start of the conflict.

Natta charts reformist path to power in Italy

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The applause at the close of the Italian Communist Party congress in Florence yesterday was warm and enthusiastic, indicating that Signor Alessandro Natta was now firmly established as its leader.

It was not a result that could have been taken for granted. He was made the party's secretary after the sudden death two years ago of Enrico Berlinguer and many regarded him as a stop-gap figure who would soon hand over the reins to a younger and more dynamic personality.

The party congress was called — unusually — a year ahead of the normal four-year period between congresses and in the wake of a series of setbacks.

Signor Natta said that his predecessor's policy of bring-

ing the Communists into government coalitions was a phase now overtaken by events and he proposed a more decisive role for the Communists in the future.

These were no longer times, he said, in which the Communists should show themselves ready to support governments led by other parties.

He based the party's new political stand on the 1948 constitution, which was drafted with Communist help.

He argued that the constitution had not been fully acted upon and required a series of reforms which would allow it to be brought into full effect.

Signor Natta insisted on the need for a struggle to prepare the Communists for a decisive role in Italian politics as a governing party.



Breyten Breytenbach, the Afrikaans poet, with his wife Yolande, centre, and the writer Daleen Matthee in Pretoria.

Italian link to Nazi death camp

Witness picks out 'Ivan the Terrible'

From Gitta Sereny and Dalbert Hallenstein, Trieste

An Italian witness has for the first time formally linked the so-called "Ivan the Terrible" from Treblinka with the name of the man now held in Israel for trial, John Demjanjuk.

The identity of the witness is being closely guarded for his protection and that of his family.

Thirteen survivors of the death camps have identified Demjanjuk as the man who drove hundreds of thousands of Jews into the gas chambers between July 1942 and September 1943.

But during their months of horror in the camps none of them ever knew his surname — or those of any of the other Ukrainian SS volunteers who guarded them. The impossibility of linking name and person has been a big difficulty in establishing the case in Israel.

When the extermination programme ended in autumn 1943, when the Russians approached the region in Poland where the death camps had been established, the German SS staff and a selected number of their Ukrainian assistants were transferred to Trieste to hunt down Italian Jews and partisans.

The man who, after extra information supplied by *The Times*, was formally interrogated last weekend by the chief magistrate of Trieste, is a craftsman. During the last years of the war, like many

began the search through thousands of files for possible witnesses. The man they found has no political record, has led an entirely respectable life, and has a son who is a leading local executive. The family is appalled at even a relatively innocent association with the German SS becoming public after four decades and he was originally very reluctant to cooperate.

But when he was shown the previously unpublished photograph of the 22-year-old Ukrainian SS member, he immediately recognized him as a man he had done work for on several occasions in 1944 and spontaneously gave the name Demjanjuk, which had not been mentioned previously.

Inspector Sergio Petrosino, the police officer in charge of the investigation, considers him an extremely strong witness. "Demjanjuk's activities in Treblinka are of course humanly deplorable, but legally they are irrelevant to the Italian state. Our concern is with crimes committed against our own citizens," he said.

"But we realize that

artisans in the city, he worked for the German SS.

The craftsman was discovered, after the Americans, last August, said there was a possible Trieste link between Demjanjuk and the Ukrainian SS volunteers who came to Trieste from Poland.

About to deport Demjanjuk from the US for falsifying his visa application, the Americans sent a wartime photograph they had used in his trial, and the Trieste police

Demjanjuk may well have things to answer for here, too. For the Israelis this identification is of enormous importance and we shall, of course, be prepared to assist them as soon as we are asked."

Indicative of the degree with which the past still preoccupies the Triestines (and exceptional in a country where the public traditionally avoid any unnecessary contact with officialdom), police appeals for information have borne fruit, too.

A former carabinieri, now aged 85, who in 1944 was imprisoned in San Sabba, the infamous Nazi prison where thousands of anti-Fascist and Italian Jews were held and murdered (the main subject of continuing Italian war crime investigations), believes he recognized in the photograph of the young Demjanjuk one of the Ukrainian SS guards at the prison.

He remembered him particularly, he told us last week, because — quite exceptionally — he managed on one occasion to engage him in conversation "and he said that he belonged to the unit who'd been killing Jews. I could never forget that."

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Honoured poet hits at Pretoria 'madness'

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's most famous contemporary poet in Afrikaans, Breyten Breytenbach, returned to his native land at the weekend for the first time since he was released from prison in 1982 after serving seven years of a nine-year sentence for terrorism.

In an astonishing sign of the changing times, Mr Breytenbach returned to be honoured as the recipient of one of the country's main prizes for literature by a largely establishment audience of Afrikaner authors, publishers and academics in the State Theatre in Pretoria.

The £5,000 prize is given annually by *Rapport*, the biggest-selling Afrikaans Sunday newspaper, and was won for poems written by Mr Breytenbach while in prison.

The audience gave him a standing ovation, but there was stunned silence when he made an impassioned denunciation of the Government, whose "rotteness" and "madness", he said, were unique.

"The Afrikaner's contribution to the richness of our world's spiritual heritage is specific: erecting and enthroning racism as an ideal state and then, as a sacrament to this idolatry, enshrining apartheid," he said.

He appealed to his fellow Afrikaners — "this whitish and perverse tribe of Africans" — not to let things come "to the point where apartheid can only be smothered in blood".

Moscow test for Sweden's new Premier

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, today faces the most severe test of his diplomatic skills since taking office last month, when he flies to Moscow for a three-day official visit.

He will meet Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, tomorrow, a prelude to talks with Mr Gorbachev.

Mr Carlsson is honoured to protest against alleged Soviet submarine violations of Swedish waters,

Criticism for Bush after Gulf mission

Washington — Vice-President George Bush's 10-day visit to Gulf states seems to have damaged his standing as a presidential aspirant because of confusion caused by his call for "stability" in oil prices (Christopher Thomas writes).

Mr Bush was interpreted as appealing for higher prices for consumers and higher profits for oil companies.

He returned home to much criticism. But the main point of his mission, to assure Gulf states of the US commitment to keeping the Gulf open and containing the Iran-Iraq war, was seen as a success.

Border clash

Dhaka — Bangladesh protested to India that its troops killed two Bangladeshi soldiers in clashes along the north-west border. Tension was also reported on the eastern frontier (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Seamen strike

Hamburg (Reuters) — West German merchant seamen began an indefinite strike for better pay and conditions in the first such stoppage by German sailors for 90 years.

Officer jailed

Kuwait (Reuters) — An army major was jailed for 10 years in Kuwait for inciting the overthrow of the Government and defaming the Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah.

Rogue buffalo

Nairobi (AP) — A rogue buffalo trampled an Italian farmer to death near Kenya's Lake Naivasha. Bruno Villa, aged 62, died when he tried to shoot the beast, which has terrorized lakeside residents.

Ferry capsizes

Lisbon (Reuters) — At least 18 people drowned when a canoe ferry on the River Cacheu estuary in Guinea-Bissau capsized and sank, Portuguese radio reported.

Ominous fires

Khartoum (Reuters) — Two textile warehouses in Dousheim owned by a West German Jewish leader, Herr Werner Nachmann, were destroyed by fire. Police have not ruled out arson.



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White House embarrassed by FBI check on Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

To the Reagan Administration's intense embarrassment, the FBI is investigating whether the Nicaraguan Contras have engaged in gun-running and drug-trafficking.

The allegations have long been rejected by the White House. The inquiries spanned at least seven states as well as Central America.

In particular, the FBI is trying to establish whether the rebels have violated the Neutrality Act, which makes it a crime to initiate or organize on American soil military attacks against a country with which the US is not at war.

The inquiry centres on possible illegal arms shipments from New Orleans and southern Florida to rebels based in Honduras and Costa Rica, according to federal authorities and supporters of rebels questioned by the FBI.

The FBI is also investigating whether cocaine has been smuggled into the US to help finance the war, which has been flagging since American funding was cut off by Congress in mid-1984.

Investigators have been asking backers of the Contras about reports of arms shipments in March 1985 from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to rebels based in Costa Rica on a charter flight through a Salvadoran Air Force base.

One supporter of the rebels, Mr Steven Carr, has said that he accompanied the supplies to El Salvador. He and four others were arrested more than a year ago by Costa Rican officials and remain in prison on charges of violating Costa Rican neutrality.

There have been previous allegations, but no charges brought, that in 1984 weapons were diverted to the rebels from two Alabama National Guard armories.

News of the FBI inquiry comes at a critical time in President Reagan's attempt to persuade Congress to provide \$100 million (£67.5 million) of assistance, \$75 million for military purposes, to the rebels.

The debate in the House of Representatives is scheduled for tomorrow and Wednesday.



James Bazley, on trial for murder of anti-drugs campaigner.

'Mr Asia' network leaves trail of corpses Drugs feed corruption of a nation

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The significance of a current murder trial in the Supreme Court in Melbourne goes beyond the fact that it is yet another grisly chapter in the story of the "Mr Asia" drug syndicate, a vicious and bloody network which left the corpses of at least seven of its principals scattered over Britain and Australia.

The case against James Bazley, who is aged 60, grey-haired and looks quite unlike a professional killer, lies at the heart of Australia's grim awakening to organized crime.

For Bazley is accused of the murder of Mr William Donald Mackay, the politician and anti-drug campaigner whose murder in 1977 finally brought home to many Australians that corruption and disease had taken a profound hold in the body of the nation.

The Mr Asia investigation disclosed an ugly, macabre saga populated with characters like Mackay, whose efforts to eradicate a huge drug network run by a Calabrian "family" in the farming town of Griffith, New South Wales, cost him his life: and like Terrence Clark, alias Alexander Sinclair, a mafia figure responsible for a number of mutilations and murders. He died in Parkhurst Jail in 1983, apparently of a heart attack, while serving a life sentence.

The affair, though it alerted Australia to the evil in its midst, might have had a less desirable effect too — creating a mistaken impression of a welcome breakthrough in law enforcement.

The reality is that, far from having been turned, the tide of organized crime is, according to authorities on the subject, still rising.

Mr Justice Athol Moffitt, a distinguished judge who headed the first of five commissions of inquiry into crime, says: "It is clear to everyone who has

Crime in Australia Part 1

studied the matter closely that organized crime is escalating and becoming more and more entrenched in Australia every year. The demise by its own hand of the Mr Asia Syndicate, which on one estimate composed but one-fifth of the smuggling trade, does not stand against the conclusion.

Mr Bob Bottom, an independent researcher and adviser, estimates that the annual turnover of organized crime in Australia has reached between £5 and £6 billion, a higher per capita ratio than that of the United States. Traditional areas of activity such as prostitution, illegal betting and protection, are still important, but more and more it is drugs — heroin, cocaine, and vari-

ties of cannabis — which have become the basis of most criminal operations.

Clearly the fact that the drug industry in itself represents so acute a peril to the nation is what gives the fight against it such urgency, whether there is sufficient political commitment for the struggle.

Mr Justice Moffitt maintains quite simply that federal and state governments have lacked the courage or will to face the issue, and that the power of politicians to interfere with investigations by, for example, the National Crime Agency, is "a disaster".

He points out that of literally hundreds of recommendations made by successive judicial inquiries, no more than a handful have been implemented. Perhaps only one — authorized phone tapping in drug investigations — has had any significant impact.

While Mr Justice Moffitt was the first to warn of the very great danger to Australia from sophisticated, clever and immensely wealthy criminals — many of whom are known to the authorities — the most exhaustive inquiry into their activities was conducted by Mr Frank Costigan, a Melbourne QC.

The Costigan Report was tabled in 1984 after an investigation which took four years, cost more than £6 million, and resulted in the laying of more than 600 charges.

But his main contention, that "the Australian public is prepared to accept quite harsh legislation from governments showing a determination to combat the (drug) industry," was never tested.

His main recommendation, for an all-out war on drug trafficking involving the establishment of a taxation investigation tribunal which would turn up the vast amounts of money generated not just by drugs but organized crime generally, was ignored by Canberra.

The establishment view is



Terrence Clark: responsible for mutilations.

that the undoubted value of Mr Costigan's work was in some way compromised by his unproven allegations linking Mr Kerry Packer, the media magnate, with organized crime.

But both Mr Justice Moffitt and Mr Justice James McClelland, who conducted the recent Royal Commission into British nuclear testing in Australia, are among legal authorities who have stalled recently that they believe Mr Costigan was right in advocating drastic action.

Mr Justice Moffitt wrote six months ago of the failure of government to grasp the nettle with the grim postscript: "We are now paying the price".

Mr Justice McClelland last month risked opprobrium among old friends in the Labor Party by castigating the government of New South Wales, where the crime problem is worst, for ineffectiveness.

Mr Costigan was even more forthright. Last month he accused the NSW administration of positively hindering the fight against organized crime, declaring: "The close relationships that were forged over decades between people of political, commercial and criminal influence remains a public scandal."

Tomorrow: Rotten apples

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£ 5,000	£ 50	£14,000	£140	£35,000	£350
£ 6,000	£ 60	£15,000	£150	£40,000	£400
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Nkomo criticism puts unity ideal at risk

From Jan Raath, Harare

An attack on the Government by Mr Joshua Nkomo, the leader of Zanu, Zimbabwe's opposition party, is expected to endanger his chances of uniting with the ruling Zanu (PF) party.

Speaking on Saturday at the graveside of Mr Lookout Masuku, the Zanu guerrilla commander in Zimbabwe's war of independence, Mr Nkomo indirectly compared the rule of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, with "Hitler's fascism".

Mr Masuku was detained in March, 1982, on allegations of treason. He was acquitted in his trial the next year, but immediately re-detained.

He died on April 3, a month after his detention order had been lifted following his transfer from prison to hospital.

Weeping intermittently before a crowd of 25,000 Zanu

supporters in Bulawayo, Mr Nkomo said Mr Masuku "died because of some people's greed for political power".

In a direct attack on the Government, he said: "It appears there is more commitment to oppression and suspicion, and the resuscitation of the politics of hate and greed in the country."

The Government is likely to be angered by his remarks, and Mr Nkomo has taken a serious chance with the unity talks which began in September last year.

● **Commissioner ousted:** Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, Zanu (PF) national political commissar, was removed from his post in the party's Politburo at the weekend after last week's attack by him on the Karanga sub-group of the dominant Shona-speaking section of the population.

Sudan poll candidate shot dead in south

From Gill Lusk, Khartoum

A candidate in the Sudanese general election has been shot dead by unidentified gunmen. Mr Joseph Kibula, a candidate for the Sudan African People's Congress and a former regional minister, was killed in the war-torn south.

Although the killers are not known, fingers have been pointed at more than one group. The three-year war waged by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and accompanying insecurity prevented polling in 37 constituencies. Voting was reported to be severely restricted in several others.

First results started to be

announced, after 12 days of polling.

Forecasts still put the National Umma Party in the lead to form a coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party after what were the country's first free elections for 18 years.

Parliamentary seats total 301, including 28 "graduate seats". The tradition of extra votes for those with further or higher education dates back to pre-independence, anti-colonial movements. Today it also reflects the crucial role of the professional in last April's uprising which overthrew ex-President Nimeiry.

'Icy vodka' alters law

Iceland is on the verge of changing its convoluted alcohol policy because a new brand of vodka has been too successful (Tony Samstag writes).

"Icy vodka," manufactured according to a secret recipe, has sold so well in Iceland and abroad that much of its blending and bottling has had to be contracted out to British firms. The lucrative American market, however, is closed to the

Icelandic entrepreneurs because US law forbids describing a product as "Icelandic" if it is not wholly produced there.

Iceland's laws are therefore to be changed to break the Government monopoly and allow certain private individuals and firms to join in the national marketing effort, provided the bottles are produced only for export or for sale in Government off-licences.

هذا من اجل

Sikh militants press for united front to break the 'shackles of slavery'

Amritsar (AFP) — The Sikh Golden Temple here, ringed by police and paramilitary troops, echoed with cries of "Sikhs will rule" yesterday as militants appealed to Muslims, Christians and Buddhists to unite against the Hindu-led Indian Government.

The crucial *sarbat khalsa* (religious assembly) called by the militants urged "all Sikhs to arm themselves and be ready to fight to break the shackles of slavery imposed on us by the Hindus." Young Sikhs, with swords drawn, raised their hands in support. Contrary to best expectations, only between 3,000 and 5,000 attended.

A *gurmata* (God's edict) adopted by the congregation called on India's minorities to form a national organization

to fight the federal Government. Gurbachan Singh Manuchal, wanted by police for various "terrorist crimes", read out the edict.

Paramilitary troops, with orders to shoot troublemakers, sealed off Amritsar. About 2,100 federal troops were stationed around the shrine yesterday, backed by 1,000 Punjab policemen.

But the top Sikh militant leadership was here on a makeshift dais in front of their religion's highest seat, the Akal Takht, damaged in the June 1984 troop assault on the temple.

In what observers saw as a sign of desperation to spread the founder's Sikh autonomy campaign, the edict called on the UN to set up a

Nuremberg-type trial of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, and his mother, Indira, assassinated by two Sikh bodyguards in October 1984.

"Like Adolf Hitler, Mr Gandhi and his mother have carried out the same oppression against the Sikhs... thousands of our brothers have been slaughtered," the edict said in a reference to the Hindu backlash after Mrs Gandhi's killing which saw about 3,000 Sikhs murdered.

● Mass rally: The Punjab Chief Minister, Surjit Singh Barnala, told a mass rally that terrorists did not have any religion (AP reports). He said Sikhs could sacrifice their lives against oppression but could never kill an innocent person.

Lange rejects agents' early release

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, yesterday ruled out the early release of two French agents jailed for bombing Rainbow Warrior, the Greenpeace flagship.

Speaking on a domestic phone-in programme broadcast by the BBC, Mr Lange said his Government would

reject any political solution for their freedom.

He said negotiations were under way on normalizing relations with France and on the possible release of the two prisoners to a third country in the distant future.

But New Zealand would never release the agents to

Farmers of China are given priority

Peking (AP) — Changes to emphasize farm production and the tasks of intellectuals were made in the annual report by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, to the National People's Congress, the final version of which was released yesterday.

Mr Zhao delivered the draft of the report on the country's five-year plan for 1986-1990 on March 25 at the opening session of the congress.

Nothing appeared to have been deleted in the final version, released by the official New China news agency, but lengthy sections on agriculture and intellectuals, and brief statements about education and guaranteeing the decision-making powers of enterprises, were added.

New China said the changes were made at the suggestion of congress deputies, who complained during the session that not enough emphasis had been placed on farming.

"The continued flourishing of agriculture, the foundation of our national economy, is one of the important strategies in our new programme of modernization," the final report said. "Therefore, we should step up grain production so that it will grow steadily."

The report said arable land has been arbitrarily used for non-agricultural purposes and some peasants had become less enthusiastic about grain production.

The report advocated pushing forward rural reforms, concentrating on improving agricultural science and technology, and encouraging large numbers of scientific and technological workers to go to the countryside to help rural residents.

China's grain harvest declined last year by 7 per cent, its first fall in several years. The Government attributed the decline to natural disasters, a reduction in acreage

devoted to grain and a trend among farmers to leave grain production for more lucrative cash crops or rural industry jobs.

The Government said it had enough surpluses from previous years to feed everyone.

However, the decline was sensitive because previous large drops in grain production meant starvation and because the party leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, has abandoned Mao Tse-tung's emphasis on grain to stress a more diversified rural economy.

The report's new section on intellectuals said the next five years would see progress in literature, art, the press, publications, the cinema, broadcasting and television as well as museums, libraries and cultural centres.

Intellectuals should help people "work heart and soul" for modernization, and apply the basic theories of Marxism in exploring and solving problems that have cropped up under the reforms.

The final report also said China should establish a system for offering advanced studies to scientific and technological workers and upgrade its education courses content and teachers.

Art, literature, the theatre, films, the press and other media are tightly controlled in China, and the Government has said people in those fields should serve socialism with their work.

In the wake of student protests last autumn against corruption in China and against Japanese economic strength, the Government gave warning against intellectuals starting new independent political movements.

Mr Zhao's report said economic growth would be slower in the next five years than between 1981 and 1985, and the economic reforms must move forward, but cautiously, to avoid serious mistakes.

Relatives to sue over JAL crash

From David Watts Tokyo

A group of relatives of victims of the world's worst single-aircraft disaster have filed suit in the Tokyo district court against Japan Airlines (JAL), the Transport Ministry and Boeing.

Those joining in the suit comprise about 40 per cent of the families affected by the deaths of 520 people in the crash. They are backed by written complaints from 793 supporters and accuse officials of professional negligence resulting in death and injury.

They claim that JAL's maintenance system, which emphasized economic efficiency, overlooked inadequate Boeing repairs to the aircraft after its heavy landing at Osaka in 1978. They blame the Transport Ministry for allowing a defective aircraft to fly and for inadequate supervision of JAL's maintenance.

The group, known as 8-12 after the month and day of the accident on August 12 last year, name five JAL officials: five ministry officials, including the former minister, Mr Tokuo Yamashita, and the chairman and president of Boeing.

The group claims that the Boeing 747 went out of control after the rear pressure bulkhead was ruptured due to metal fatigue causing destruction of the tailfin and hydraulic system.

Dhaka bus bomb kills passenger

Dhaka — One person was killed and about 100 others injured in bloody clashes between rival transport workers as most public buses were kept off the streets here for the third day yesterday, police said (Ahmed Fazi writes).

More than 20 people were arrested as bombs were thrown by picketing transport workers on Saturday at buses defying a strike call over a municipal decision to move the central bus station.

Police said that a passenger was killed when a bomb exploded in a bus in northern Dhaka.

Family sails world in a concrete yacht

Gamagori, Japan (Reuters) — An Anglo-Japanese family, which had its heart set on sailing around the world in a home-made concrete yacht, completed the voyage yesterday — nearly five years after setting off.

About 20 yachts and 2,000 people welcomed the 44-ft yacht when it sailed into Gamagori, near the central Japanese city of Nagoya.

Mr Hiroaki Nagae, aged 38, a former foreign ministry official, his British wife Jennifer, aged 37, and their daughter, Erika, aged nine, left nearby Tokoname in July 1981.

Bhutto promises radical reforms

From Michael Hamlyn Islamabad

Miss Benazir Bhutto, who returned from exile in London last week, arrived in the little industrial town of Gujranwala at 3 am yesterday to find an enthusiastic, though slightly min-dampened crowd waiting for her, despite the fact that she was almost 12 hours late.

She had taken 13 hours to travel the 42 miles from the Punjab capital of Lahore. Every step of the way was accompanied by cheering, dancing crowds shouting "Zia out, Zia out".

Her cavalcade of cars, buses, lorries, bellock carts and donkeys stopped eight times along the way for her to address impromptu gatherings of industrial workers.



Miss Benazir Bhutto waving to thousands of her enthusiastic supporters in Gujranwala.

She told them her father, the former prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had been killed by the martial law regime of General Zia ul-Haq because he had wanted to take over factories and hand them to the workers.

She also promised to abolish taxes on farmers which have been introduced as a result of a reversion to traditional Islamic policies.

Neither remark will endear her to the industrialists or the religious leaders, but it was always unlikely that she would have any appeal for them.

Miss Bhutto also told the crowd at Gujranwala of what she and her party are describing as an attempt on her life.

"It was a murderous attack," she said about a break-

in at a house where she had previously held a press conference.

The break-in was carried out by former Army Major Abdul Qayyum, who seemed to be deranged. He had hired a taxi to lead him to the house, but declined to pay the driver, who promptly pulled out a revolver and fired shots into the air.

The major then hammered

on the door of the house. When he received no reply, he broke a number of windows and climbed in. He badly beat a nightwatchman, before being overpowered by party workers.

He had apparently visited London in an attempt to see Miss Bhutto last month, but said he had been turned away. He regarded her, he said, as his wife, and wished a simple ceremony to put the legal seal

on their relationship.

The major was married, and the only sinister circumstance was his address book, which contained the names and telephone numbers of police and military intelligence officers.

The incident is being played up by the party to indicate the fear that her successful series of meetings is instilling in the administration.

Thousands 'elect' ally of Marcos

Manila (AFP) — Thousands of supporters of the ousted President Marcos held a rally here yesterday and proclaimed his running mate in the February elections, Mr Arturo Tolentino, aged 75, as the "duly elected" Philippines Vice-President.

At least 15,000 people cheered and waved flags and portraits of the fallen leader and let loose balloons as Mr Tolentino, a former MP and Foreign Minister, got on the stage, independent observers said.

Elsewhere, 5,000 placard-bearing Marcos loyalists began massing around a suburban university where some members of Mr Marcos's New Society Movement (NSM) plan to reconvene Parliament today in open defiance of the Aquino Government.

At yesterday's pro-Marcos rally, posters and streamers proclaiming allegiance to the former President were held aloft to drum rolls as the crowd chanted: "Let's attack Malacanang (the presidential palace)."

Loyalists said they would recognize Mr Tolentino as "temporary President" until Mr Marcos returned from exile in Hawaii. Mr Tolentino pledged to campaign for the return of the constitution

Mr Hardy compares the qualities of his tailor with those of his Merlin phone system.

BEING A BRIEF EXCURSION INTO THE MANNER IN WHICH MERLIN SYSTEMS ARE FASHIONED TO INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS.

You'll find Mr Hardy a man of considerable intellect, impeccable taste and quite uncommon vision. Thus warned, an intrepid British Telecom communications consultant approached the near legendary Ernest Hardy.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

"There is no doubt," began Hardy, "that Merlin phone systems from British Telecom are perfect for my requirements." The consultant nodded sagely. "Just as a suit is the perfect attire for work." The consultant stopped in mid-nod. "Come," announced Hardy, "between us we will tailor a Merlin system to our exact size and structure which will save time, temper and money by being uniquely fashioned to our every foible."

HARDY'S FANTASY

Hardy came to an abrupt halt. "Take the sales department." The consultant took a step back at such unprecedented pertinence. "Here," continued Hardy, "we need the phones to be grouped, so that an unattended phone can be answered from any other extension."

The consultant made a note in his book. "We need certain frequently used numbers to be accessed quickly and easily with short codes." The consultant made another note. Craning over his shoulder, Hardy noticed that the

consultant had written 'Merlin Octara', 'Group Pick Up' and 'Abbreviated Dialling'. Hardy

be able to see at a glance which extensions are busy, I need a telephone conferencing system..."



KEEPING ABREAST OF THE TIMES

The consultant waited for Hardy to come to a halt before speaking. "Mr Hardy. You mentioned the range of Merlin phone systems from British Telecom. I suggest that a Merlin Octara will accommodate your rich and diverse requirements."

"Doubtless," Mr Hardy, there'll be additions for your system in the future," said the consultant. "A Merlin Call Management system would give you all the information you need to make adjustments to your phone system to ensure peak performance at all times."

Hardy was stunned. Here was a man of formidable intellect, a certain vision and perhaps... Hardy turned to the consultant, "Tell me, where do you have your suits made?"

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True enough, the Chancellor still only allows 15p a day, tax free, for lunch and that won't feed a mouse. But where real savings can be made is that Luncheon Vouchers, like staff canteens, are exempt from National Insurance Contributions.

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The same employee getting a £1 Luncheon Voucher is left with 75p. 35% more and at no extra cost to the company.

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decent sum of Luncheon Vouchers.

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It's equally likely that the denominations you give out have remained the same for twenty years.

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If you'd like to review your current arrangements or simply want more information, get your secretary to telephone 01-935 4424 and ask for Chris Jones.

Alternatively, send your business card with a request for details to the same person at Luncheon Vouchers Limited, 50 Vauxhall Bridge Rd, London SW1V 2RS.



THE GOVERNMENT WILL FORK OUT THE REST.



هذا هو الجيد

Devoted servant at sixty

In honour of the Queen's sixtieth birthday next week, Alan Hamilton looks at the personal qualities of our monarch in the first of a three-part series. We will also examine her working relationships and in particular her rapport with the Commonwealth

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, Queen of the United Kingdom and 16 other realms, head of a Commonwealth of 49 nations, Defender of the Faith, horse and dog breeder, mother-in-law and grandmother, arrives pensionable age next Monday. Under Department of Health and Social Security rules, however, she will not qualify for the state's old-age weekly handout of £61.30 for a married couple, her husband does not reach 65 until June, and besides neither of them are up to date with their National Insurance stamps.

Not that it will worry her unduly. Were she to sit in her counting house counting out her money, she would be able to tot up a personal fortune variously estimated at between £50 million and £100 million but in truth unknown, probably even to herself. She therefore has no need of state aid for her private support: every year on Budget Day, when her annual Civil List is announced, her spokesmen wearily attempt to pre-empt "Pay rise for Queen" headlines, reminding us all yet again that it is many a year since Parliament's annual grant to the Crown contained a salary for the monarch.

But more important than that, she is one working woman for whom retirement is not really an option. The bugaboo of her graceful withdrawal in favour of Charles surfaces with monotonous regularity, and a recent poll in a women's magazine indicated approximately half the population in favour of her doing so. Yet why should she? Thirty-four years into her reign she is, apart from occasional sinus trouble, in excellent health and high in public esteem and affection.

Abdication is a word still calculated to send a funeral shiver through "the system", the generic term employed by the Royal Family to refer to their ever-burgeoning clan. Elizabeth II is a monarch with the highest sense of duty, instilled by her father and buttressed by her belief that his premature death at the age of 36 was hastened by worry over the wayward Edward who preceded him.

She has avoided the mistake of her great-grandmother Victoria, who refused to let Bertie look over her shoulder at the affairs of state, and drove him to a life of shooting and women. Charles has been in his mother's confidence from an early age, but where is the urgency to put him on the throne?

Elizabeth's reign has not all been plain sailing, and she has weathered storms both of style and of constitutional propriety. In the late 1950s Lord Altrincham was very nearly lynched by his peers for suggesting in effect that she was stuffy, boring and hermetically sealed from the real world. In the 1960s monarchy became intellectually unfashionable; John Osborne dismissed it as a splendid triviality, and Malcolm Muggeridge condemned it as an ersatz religion.

Such criticisms remain, except that today the show is known as The Palace Dallas, an exceptionally classy soap opera with many of the right characters: the sad sister, the over-the-top mid-European cousin, the randy younger son and his introspective, sensitive elder brother, the dear old granny in the lampshade frock.

Yet any criticism is at the institution and occasionally at its bit-part players. Critics and satirists find Elizabeth a notoriously imprecise and difficult target; even her monstrous puppet on *Splitting Image* is really rather endearing, and positively flattering by the standards of Gillray's vicious caricatures of her Hanoverian ancestors.

She achieves this, at least in part, by guarding jealously the privacy of her private life. We have all seen the shots of her tending the stags at a Balmoral barbecue, but of what she really thinks and feels we know almost nothing. She never gives interviews, except rarely on safe topics like her horses, or what she remembered of VE Day; she will never talk in public about her job.

Maintaining that intensely private core is one of her secrets for survival in the post-war world which is so deeply offended to find the tabloid scrotes with their prying lenses lurking in the bushes of Sandringham, and why she was shocked to the core — far more than she ever showed in public — to find Michael Fagan sitting on the end of her palace bed.

Her private life has become increasingly fulfilled. Whether or not she enjoys her job is not a question she is often likely to address to herself, as in her view it is a question that does not arise. What she unquestionably enjoys to the full is her other principal role in life, that of grandmother, aunt and great-aunt to an ever-expanding family.

She has not always been able to reap the pleasures of family life. Her two elder children were born at a time when her life was dominated by fears for her father's health, and in their early years her attention was diverted by the new burden of the throne. It explains the ten-year gap between her first and second families; she was able to enjoy far more the early years of Andrew and Edward, and even now she appears to enjoy a closer and more natural bond with her younger two.

It has been noticeable, too, that in times of family crisis, such as her sister's divorce, Elizabeth has taken great pains to cast the cloak of family affection around all parties involved. Her daughter Anne may be closer in spirit and temperament to her father than her mother, but her boisterous child, Peter Phillips, the highest commoner in the land at number five in line of succession, is undoubtedly the Queen's favourite grandchild.

She has also weathered oc-



Sovereign smiles: Princess Elizabeth by Karah of Ottawa on her 18th birthday and (right) the Queen at the Royal Film Performance last month



casional palpitations about the exercise of her constitutional power, although any blame must be laid at the door of her advisers rather than herself. When Winston Churchill fell ill in 1953 she was ready to call upon Lord Salisbury as her prime minister, a move which might well have precipitated a political crisis; fortunately the robust Churchill recovered. She called on Alec Douglas-Home in 1963 when Macmillan bowed out and the Tory-Party machine was unable to throw up an undisputed successor.

She took a lot of Antipodean flak when her representative in Canberra, Sir John Kerr, sent Gough Whitlam's Australian Labour government packing. But her government-general act with full plenipotentiary powers, and do not even need to consult her. In truth, the Australians would probably not have it any other way.

But the crown has learned since then, and its future political footwork is likely to be nimble. Commentators fret on what Elizabeth might do in the event of a hung parliament at the next election. They need not lose too much sleep; Elizabeth commissioned an extensive range of study papers on the subject months ago.

But what of her public face, probably the most familiar in the world, endlessly portrayed through that symbiotic relationship between crown and media in which one needs the other in roughly equal measure? Why do we so approve of this remote, aristocratic woman whose life bears little relation to that of any of her subjects?

Perhaps because, at the core of her position, wealth, glamour and privilege, she still manages to convey an essential ordinariness. It is a talent brought to the House of Windsor by George V, who was so ordinary as to be, in some eyes, monumentally dull. "I am just an ordinary fellow," he remarked in some puzzlement when vast crowds turned out to cheer him at his 1935 jubilee.

Elizabeth is not dull, but she is shy and awkward, which makes her trusted. It is one reason why Princess Michael of Kent has had such difficulty in being accepted as a member of "the firm", brasserie and pushiness are the wrong recipe for success. "Far too grand for

the likes of us", is the Queen's reported view of her. On her Canadian tour in 1984, the local press were very rude about her style, calling her frumpy and her clothes disastrous. They missed the point; Elizabeth's style is to have no style. She is still dressed by the houses of Amies and Hartnell, and never throws an outfit away. Buckingham Palace bulges with rooms full of her wardrobe.

One of the richest women in the world is also famous for her parsimony. One feels that, in hard times, she would be a very effective housewife. Her various homes are celebrated for their spartan one-bar electric fires, and she herself is equally celebrated among her own circle for her obsession with turning off unwanted lights. In Sandringham and Balmoral it is she, not us, who pays the electricity bill.

Next Monday evening she

will attend a gala performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, an institution which, it has been pointed out, costs the nation more to run than the Queen. But opera is so far down her list of recreational loves that it virtually falls off the bottom; she is happier kicking her shoes off and watching television.

By doing so she merely mirrors the lowbrow cultural taste of the population at large, to whom grand operas

an elitist pursuit. In all she does, except where occasions of state demand it, she eschews novelty, lavishness and glitz. Horse-breeding, hardly a common hobby among the masses, is permitted; the British love animals, and the masses do after all have a strong vested interest in the sport.

How would Elizabeth like history to remember her? As one who fulfilled the high duty thrust upon her, no doubt, and

one who kept the vows of holy matrimony between monarch and nation which are the essence of the Coronation ceremony. As one who adapted the monarchy to the times and maintained it, proving that the institution still had some value.

But above all, one strongly suspects, Elizabeth would care to be written in history as the woman who preserved the Commonwealth.

It was all very well for Victoria, the apex of imperial power, to sit unseen in her widow's weeds at Osborne and rule the empire simply by being rather than doing. But there is no empire now, and in the modern world climate the Commonwealth could well be regarded as a frail flower.

It was a fortunate coincidence that Elizabeth ascended the throne in the same year as the world's first scheduled jet airliner service. She believes in the Commonwealth fervently, but she also believes that its titular head must be seen to the greatest possible degree in its member states, and only jet travel has made that possible. She is careful of her politics, but caring of this curious grouping that encompasses a quarter of the earth. She was livid with Reagan for invading Grenada; it was as though a member of her family had been defied. In many ways she is the Commonwealth.

But her travels extend far beyond the old pink bits of the map. In October this extraordinary ambassador, perhaps the best that Britain ever had, is due to set foot in the Forbidden City of Peking. One prize remains, and may yet come: to go walkabout in Red Square.

Such thoughts will not trouble her much on her birthday; she will be more concerned that the day's events set to mark this arbitrary milestone will prevent her from enjoying her traditional birthday treat — flying up to Sandringham to admire her horses.

More to the point, what mother does not enjoy a wedding to look forward to?

TOMORROW

All the Queen's men — the role of the royal advisers

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Family matters: at the Windsor Horse Show in 1980 the Queen flanked by (from left) Princess Alexandra, the Hon Angus Ogilvy and Prince Andrew

SPECTRUM 2

No pedigree, but off to a racing start

A hi-tech tabloid newspaper is under starter's orders for launch in two days time — and is tipped to start a racetrack circulation battle

Jockey Club brigadiers are going to be in for a shock when a new racing paper, the *Racing Post*, hits the streets on Wednesday. The style of the paper says that ranks, beloved of the racing fraternity, will not be printed unless they belong to serving officers.

The new contender in the daily newspaper high technology stakes (by Eddy Shah out of Murdoch) goes on sale all over Britain and Ireland, on Wednesday provided it has chased the bugs out of the computers. The paper has already had one false start.

The *Racing Post* is a newspaper dedicated to what its editor calls "the Grand Opera of the open air". The turf, in other words. This journalistic niche has, since the demise of the late lamented *Sporting Chronicle*, been monopolized by *The Sporting Life*, a hard-pressed member of the Maxwell stable. The *Life*, as it is fondly called, has become accustomed to reigning over racing much as the *Financial Times* presides over the Stock Exchange (but without the

same profit). The signs are that the racing world is now to be mesmerized by a contest between the old-style broadsheet and the upstart new tabloid. In anticipation of the "off" *The Sporting Life* has already dropped its price from 40p to 25p, the same as the *Racing Post*.

There was a time when the *Life* and the *Sporting Chronicle* shared 150,000 racing readers between them. Better racing pages in the popular press and the habit of pinning the racing papers on the wall of betting shops to make life easy for the punters changed all that. The newcomer will be happy to break even at 40,000 by the end of its second year.

Like so much else in British racing today, the *Post* is owned by Arab money. The Maktoum brothers, leading owners and breeders, have provided around £3 million to get the paper started, which is less than they have been known to bid for a yearling at the Keeneland sales in Kentucky. It was the racing journalist and television commentator Brough

Scott who suggested the idea of a new technology racing paper to Sheikh Mohamed, the senior of the Maktoum brothers, at a meeting in Dubai.

"They wanted to put something back into British racing," says Scott, now a director on a board that includes the doyen of the racetrack pressrooms, Peter O'Sullivan. "But I hope," Scott says, "that nobody will imagine that we are the Maktoums' poodles."

With notable illustrious exceptions, racing journalism has always had a style which, if not exactly seedy, is not quite Royal Enclosure either. The image is of a bunch of hard-living, unceremonious types talking out of the sides of their mouths. Insurance companies shun them.

A visit to the *Racing Post* is, therefore, a surprise. It looks as though it is an insurance company. They have taken on a newly-built three-storey, red-brick office in south suburban Raynes Park, fitting it out with matching light oak desk work. Even the chief

tipster, an Oxford law graduate, is officially known as the Information Editor. Hidden from sight are the handicappers, pure mathematicians who work in solitude at home.

The Editor, Graham (The Rock) Rock, was reared in the looser disciplines of psychology and sociology at Durham. But he claims he spent more time studying form than Freud. On the *Sporting Chronicle* he was "Kettledrum" (in racing journalism pseudonyms still preserve the traditional belief that gentlemen should not be seen to be tipping horses).

At the *Chronicle's* demise he went to Hong Kong as a paid staff member of the Hong Kong racing track, eventually becoming the official handicapper. The huge sums of money involved in Hong Kong racing encourage participants to, as he puts it, "make serious attempts to arrange the results". The Chinese press called him "the iron fist", which pleased him.

"I got a call from Brough and flew home for a 48-hour meeting. I said I'd take the job provided I could pick my team and be an independent editor." What he meant by that was that he didn't want any calls from Sheikh Mohamed's stud manager complaining about the rating given to one of his horses.

For a hard core of senior men he picked old pals from his pressroom days, men such as Tim Richards, a news specialist from the *Daily Mirror*, and a bloodstock expert, Tony Morris. Two hundred people applied for jobs before they had even advertised. Last autumn they hired a committee room in the Turf Club and saw 100 people over six days for 30 positions. Apart from the top six staff the average age is 29 (Rock himself is 40).

"We weren't just looking for ability," he says. "Attitude towards the sport was the important thing. They have all got to love racing." Most have demonstrated that love by doing ill-paid stints in one of the several recognized

'Our writing must be intelligible to a much wider audience'

introductory paths to racing journalism, the *Timeform* and *Raceform* racing manuals or the PA Racing News Service. Only the keenest survive that.

They are trying not to look too much like a racing paper. One of Graham Rock's key words is "accessible". "We have to help open up racing to a wider audience. What we write should be intelligible to anyone." There will be two pages of general non-racing sport. Rock brought in a designer who was not a racing man and asked him to start afresh with all the traditional factual slabs of information, the race cards, results and lists of form.

Rock is also discouraging one of the most characteristic features of racing journalism, the apparent dread of mentioning a horse's name more than once in a piece. No more will we be able to savour the desperate procession of synonyms tripping down the page: "the Irish visitor... the Eudymion colt... the Gold Cup runner-up..."

The journalists have been getting on well in the new environment. "But the computers seemed to need time to bed themselves in," says Rock, who has suffered nerve-wracking machine breakdowns during some of the dummy runs. These experiences have made him cautious about promising total nationwide coverage from day one. A key man in the enterprise is a Malaysian computer consultant called Ed Lim.

"I can remember sitting at home as recently as last September and starting the whole thing off by getting on the telephone to order equipment. We are unlike any other high technology newspaper. So much of our material is factual lists, the information for which can come from as many as five different sources. We have to have a system that can sort out those five separate inputs and marry them together." He has had to add extra banks of memory to their hardware. They are still short of capacity, and have ordered a new machine which won't arrive until May. The lists of horses' form, which can run to 30 pages of detailed information, were too big for the computers to swallow in one gulp and set out in the approved single column style. "If Ed can't do something about that we won't be able to come out," Rock said at one point. Ed fixed it.

Printing will be done in Burgess Hill, Sussex, for the South, and in Warrington for the North and Ireland. The finished pages will be transmitted in facsimile over the wire to the printing centres from Raynes Park. But as only one of the fax machines has arrived they will have to rely on old-fashioned motor cycle couriers to get the pages to Burgess Hill at the start.

"I sometimes feel nervous about being 25 miles from Fleet Street," Howard Wright, the assistant editor, says. "Things often go missing in the heat of the moment in newspaper offices. If someone lost the Press Association's over-



Editor Graham Rock from Freud to form

night list of runners back in Fleet Street we could just go across the road and get another one."

Others feel different pressures. All the outside correspondents have been given Tandy portable computers. They can key in their stories, link themselves onto a telephone line and send their copy to the central computer in seconds. This comes strangely to someone like *ex-Mirror* man Tim Richards, who is used to ad libbing golden phrases down a telephone. "We are trying to teach him to ad lib on a Tandy," says Wright.

Over at the *Life* they are fighting back with some more inspired and brighter coverage of their own. But although it has no form, the Raynes Park newcomer has a useful pedigree and it will not be dismayed by class company. Should get the trip.

Pearson Phillips

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A sporting man at arms

For someone who had to be ordered to stop walking about the front line in a hail of machine-gun bullets on the Third Ukrainian Front (then engaged in bitter fighting with the retreating Germans in Yugoslavia in 1945) General Vladimir Stoichev, who was commander of the first Bulgarian Republican Army, is a legendary Olympic equestrian figure who has lived his life on the spartan principle that a soldier comes home either bearing his shield or lying on it.

In old age, he is as forthright as ever. The Olympics should be open, he says, a provocative pronouncement in anti-professional Eastern Europe. How, he asks, can rhythmic gymnasts be required to practise a ball exercise 7,000 times in a full-time training programme and be called amateurs?

"The Olympic motto of Faster, Higher, Stronger is impossible nowadays unless you are full-time", he says.

Had he not, I ventured, believed in amateurism when he was competing? "I'm not really sure about that," he says with a twinkle in his eye. "I was in the cavalry, and riding five horses a day!"

But he remains convinced

General Vladimir Stoichev, (right) veteran of the International Olympic Committee, was 94 this month. He recalls his career and talks about the changing Games



pic Games of 1924 and 1928 by Stoichev and his colleague, Kroun Lekarski.

In 1924, the two cavalry officers, paying all their own expenses, travelled to Paris by goods train on a journey taking 10 days. Twice a day, they massaged their horses to keep them supple. On arrival, they discovered that the stables they had reserved were 14 miles from the Three Day Event course. Unable to afford transport, they had to walk their horses to and from competition through Paris traffic.

At that time there was not a single thoroughbred horse in Bulgaria, but Stoichev, through his perfection in training his cavalry horse, Pan, came 13th out of about 50 in the dressage.

"You can achieve nothing unless, in the first place, you love the horse", the General said when I talked to him in his third-floor flat in Sofia, where he manages the stairs without the help of a lift. His devotion is illustrated by an anecdote about how he once

"The Olympics are the strongest social force in the world"

arrived for a competition in Madrid by rail wagon, having treated his horse every few hours in the intense heat.

And the day before the cross country in Paris, he walked for many hours in search of transport to save the horses the long journey to the course. In doing so he shed two kilograms (about five pounds) but this was only discovered at the weigh-in. His horse had been weighed earlier so he was made to fill his pockets with two kilos of Auteuil gravel.

In 1928, shortly before the Games in Amsterdam, Stoichev competed in a pre-Olympics event in Lucerne, where, astonishingly, he and his pibeian horse won the dressage. In the Olympic cross country, Lekarski's horse stumbled, fell on his rider and fractured his pelvis, then trod on his intestines while regaining his feet. Lekarski, in excruciating pain, remounted to complete the course, fell off unconscious at the finishing

line and was in intensive care for 15 days. Stoichev, in line for an individual medal, sportingly withdrew.

Stoichev and Lekarski were prevented from competing in Los Angeles in 1932 when the authorities refused to assist with transport for their horses. Stoichev, then military attaché in Paris, made a remarkable recovery from a fall that fractured two vertebrae and left him paralysed for several weeks. Exceptional fitness has ensured his longevity. When he visited Sarajevo — where his great grandfather was mayor — for the 1984 Winter Games, he remarked to a tourist guide how pleasant it was to visit the home where he once lived. When was that, the guide asked? "Oh, in the last century", Stoichev replied.

In 1923, he was dismissed to the provinces for a year for whistling at the German-born Bulgarian Kaiser in a German propaganda film. Eleven years later he took part in the abortive coup to overthrow the despised imported king. The fascist government, sympathizers of Mussolini, thwarted the coup and again Stoichev was exiled to a mountainous province.

That left him a committed campaigner for his people's freedom. Sofia was heavily bombed during the War by American and British forces. For a year, Nadia Lekarska — now a co-opted member of the IOC programme commission — housed 34 relatives and friends in a three-room ski lodge in the Vitosha Mountains just outside the city. In 1944, the fascist government was finally overthrown, and Stoichev elected to command the newly-formed army. "There are the men who broke Hitler's head", he said proudly as he showed me round his flat. The walls are crowded, alongside the horses, with autographed pictures of Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin, and de Gaulle; of Stoichev, arm-in-arm with General Kettley of the British Eighth Army and with Soviet General Kaptokhin after the capitulation of the Germans in Klagenfurt; with Tito on the balcony in celebration in Belgrade, his hat at a familiar jaunty angle; as postwar diplomatic adviser in Washington; with Prince Philip at Olympic conferences.

On each turn of the stairs to his flat, a wall-seat has been placed in the corner. The remarkable General, his eyes as bright as his tie-pin, is pacing himself. He would like to be "a man of three centuries". We drank a bottle of champagne to that.

David Miller

The fight to save a giant

Mass poaching is killing off the African rhinoceros. The authorities are fighting back — but is it all too little, and too late?

BLACK RHINO POPULATION

Tanzania	3,130
Zimbabwe	1,680
Zambia	1,550
South Africa	640
Kenya	550
Namibia	450
Central Afr Rep	170
Mozambique	130
Cameroon	110
Sudan	100
Somalia	80
Angola	80
Malawi	20
Rwanda	15
Botswana	10
Ethiopia	10
Chad	5
Uganda	0
TOTAL (1984)	4,400

half the poachers' bounty goes to North Yemen, where a seven-fold increase in taelon has allowed thousands of youths to buy daggers with handles of carved rhino horn, a privilege formerly restricted to the aristocracy.

He found that in South-East Asia demand is from Chinese apothecaries who dispense powdered rhino horn as a panacea for colds, influenza and fevers (a futile prescription: rhino horn is as about as beneficial as human hair). A pound of powdered horn can fetch up to £10,000, and the price is rising as the supply dwindles.

An extensive project is now underway in Zaire's Garamba National Park to stop the extinction of the last 14 specimens of a distinct species, the northern white rhino. The area has been designated a world heritage site by Unesco, one of 14 such areas of outstanding natural value.

Project adviser Charles Mackie describes the park, once one of the jewels of the

Belgian colonial empire, as having been "totally neglected for the 25 years since independence". Ranged against him are gangs of poachers from neighbouring Sudan, operating with the full political and military support of that country. And the gamepark staff are making his task doubly difficult: often going for three months without pay (the Zaire equivalent of £2.60 a month) they sell animals to tourists in order to survive.

The rhino succumbs easily to drought, disease and physical wounding. It is attacked by hippo and hyena, and deliberately harassed by elephants. It has an infrequent oestrus cycle, gestates for 16 months and then produces a single offspring which stays with the mother for two years. Under ideal conditions, the female rhino can be expected to produce a calf every four years. But "in the bush, a rhino can go through its 30-year lifespan without producing any young at all", says

Geles Tatham, a provincial warden in the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management who is coordinating "Operation Stronghold", a full military operation against poachers in the Zambezi Valley, another world heritage

Since December 1984, scores of poacher gangs from Zambia — where the Luangwa Valley National Park is now thoroughly depleted — have been crossing the Zambezi river by night in canoes. They have cut down about 120 black rhinos, while the Zimbabweans have killed 16 poachers.

Mr Tatham says he expects the poachers to increase their belligerence. They have started including "hit men" carrying AK 47 automatic rifles to fight their way out of National Parks ambushes, and he predicts they will soon begin direct attacks on his staff.

The one ray of hope has been the efforts of the National Parks Board in the United Kingdom and Hluhluwe game reserves of South Africa. During the 1950s the population of white rhino was wiped out in eastern and southern Africa, except for between 50 and 100 in Natal. But a carefully managed protection and breeding operation has dragged the white rhino back from the brink of extinction to the point where more than 3,000 have been reintroduced in other African countries.

Conservationists are concerned, however, by the effect that South Africa's current political upheaval could have on conservation. Unless the scene there is very carefully controlled, says a senior member of the rhino specialist group, "there is a chance that a breakdown in law and order could destroy the last breeding nucleus for white rhino in Africa".

Jan Raath

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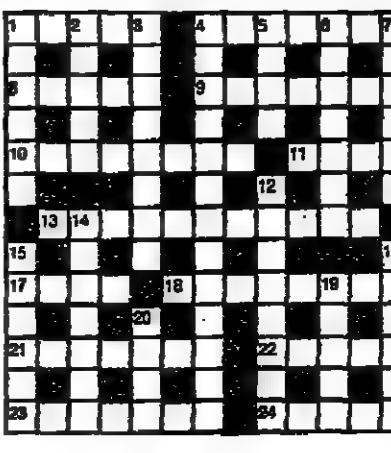


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13 Light food (11)
17 Light (4)
18 Passage (8)
21 Slaying power (7)
22 Church council (5)
23 Pleasing (7)
24 Concur (5)

- DOWN
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2 Salmon-like fish (5)
3 Closet (8)
4 Objective (13)
5 Ties (4)
6 Make whisky (7)
7 Good opinion (6)
12 Food of gods (5)
14 Set aside (7)



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NO CASE FOR TRANSFER

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand prime minister, seemed to back away, in his BBC radio phone-in interview yesterday, from what had been interpreted as a hint that France and New Zealand were close to a solution of the dispute over the Rainbow Warrior incident. He reaffirmed his pledge that the two French Secret Service agents now serving ten-year sentences in New Zealand for manslaughter would not be "released to freedom" under his government, and he agreed with a French caller that it was unrealistic to expect France to keep the agents in custody.

In an Australian television interview on Friday Mr Lange had said that the prisoners might be released to serve their sentences in France "or elsewhere", and when asked what he meant by elsewhere he had remarked enigmatically that France had a lot of territories. He did not repeat this remark yesterday, and indeed it is very difficult to see how it could provide a solution, since it would be politically no easier for the French government to keep the two agents in jail in a French overseas territory than it would in metropolitan France. At most one can imagine that they would be "assigned to residence" in such a territory, or simply - since both are members of the armed forces - given "duties" that would keep them there for a time. What French public opinion would not tolerate is that these two French citizens should be punished by the French government for a crime which they committed on govern-

ment orders - and the fact that the political colour of the government has changed since the crime was committed does not alter this.

Indeed the new French prime minister, Monsieur Chirac, while still leader of the Opposition, made some political capital out of his predecessor's failure to secure the agents' release, and even threatened New Zealand with being considered "an adversary of France" if it insisted on keeping them in detention. Were he now to agree to keep them in detention on French soil he would expose himself to attacks from M. Charles Hernu, the former Defence Minister who took political responsibility for the attack on the Rainbow Warrior and thereby (curiously enough) visibly strengthened his political standing in the country.

Whatever treatment the two agents received, once they were on French territory, would have, in order to satisfy French public opinion, to be so favourable that it would outrage New Zealand public opinion. That circle is not going to be squared quickly, as Mr Lange acknowledged yesterday when he said that any transfer of the prisoners from New Zealand territory could only occur when they had already served such a substantial part of their sentences as might be followed by a change in the circumstances of their detention if they were ordinary prisoners.

Most British sympathies in this affair will be with New Zealand - partly on straightforward "kith-and-kin" grounds, partly because

France's action in sinking the Rainbow Warrior was palpably both immoral and ill-judged ("worse than a crime, a mistake", as Talleyrand would have said), and partly because the notion that individuals can be exonerated from responsibility for criminal acts on the grounds that they were acting under orders has been repugnant since the time of the Nuremberg trials.

On the French side it should be said that France has accepted responsibility for the crime, has apologised, and is willing to discuss compensation; and that the two agents who were incompetent and unlucky enough to get themselves caught were neither the actual perpetrators of the sabotage nor yet the originators or ring-leaders of the conspiracy. There was some justice, if no political realism, in M. Chirac's suggestion that M. Hernu should offer to go and serve the sentence in their place.

It is against the French state rather than against these two individuals that New Zealand has the strongest legitimate grievance. In some degree they have become scapegoats, and that is bad luck. But France should accept that it is unrealistic to expect their early release, and certainly unrealistic to expect the support of her European partners if she pursues the quarrel. Any attempt to use the already severely restricted access of New Zealand products to the Common Market as a lever in this affair would be very ill-received elsewhere in the Community, and especially in this country.

AN ENLARGED OPPORTUNITY

As Sweden's new prime minister sets out for the Soviet Union, both sides will feel a twinge of regret when the red carpet is rolled out for Ingvar Carlsson, and not for Olof Palme. Moscow will be disappointed because the late Swedish Prime Minister's eminence in the world of international politics would have been a diplomatic adornment for Mr Gorbachev's foreign policy; Sweden because Mr Palme would have wielded the personal and political weight in Moscow to press the case of Sweden and the West and be heard.

But if the occasion is less impressive than it might have been, the opportunity is not. This is the first visit to Moscow by a Swedish prime minister for 10 years - an unexpected record for a neutral country known in earlier years for its sharp condemnations of the United States. The visit was planned when Olof Palme was still alive, and the fact that his successor has decided to keep the appointment nonetheless suggests that there is enthusiasm in Stockholm and in Moscow to improve relations.

Indeed, the arrival of Mr Carlsson at the head of the Swedish government could actually make the opportunity

all the greater. Mr Carlsson will not be inhibited, as Mr Palme might have been, by having seen his country's neutrality violated by intruding Soviet submarines while under his stewardship, (not yet at least). Nor, as a little known politician internationally, is he likely to be hampered by personal considerations of statesmanship. He can, while insisting that he is maintaining the Palme tradition intact, actually start to reshape the Swedish-Soviet relationship.

For the Soviet Union, too, the fact that it is Mr Carlsson rather than Mr Palme who is the Kremlin's guest this week has certain advantages. It frees Soviet leaders of the obligation - often observed to the detriment of plain speaking - to be polite to their friends. Moreover, without the distraction of Mr Palme's international stature, Moscow can concentrate on Mr Carlsson's position as leader of socialist Sweden. At a time when Moscow has renewed its interest in the idea of a united front between socialists and communists to combat US influence in Europe, the arrival of a leader from so classic a socialist country as Sweden will be especially welcome.

This presents Mr Carlsson with two quite specific tasks.

The first is to convince the Soviet leadership that he is just as serious about maintaining Sweden's defences as his predecessor was, and that Swedish-style neutrality is something quite different from Finland's wary fence-sitting. It will be especially important for this to be made clear if Moscow, as it may well do, floats once more the idea of a nuclear-free North for the benefit of a new Scandinavian leader.

Mr Carlsson's second task will be to take over where Mr Palme left off in representing Western concern to the Soviet Union, above all, on human rights and emigration. Sweden has its own cause to pursue here: the case of Dr Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who went missing in Budapest at the end of the war after saving thousands of Jews. According to some, Dr Wallenberg is still alive in a Soviet prison camp; the Soviet authorities have denied this. But Sweden has also in the past interceded with the Soviet authorities for the release of Dr Sakharov and other Soviet dissidents. To pursue these cases will not make Mr Carlsson popular in Moscow, but it would make his trip to the Soviet Union more than worthwhile.

Hospital pressure

From Dr D.N. Foster
Sir, At the end of yet another financially disastrous year for the National Health Service, the country is faced with further dismantling of the basic acute services while being lulled into complacency by announcements of new investments.

Consider the case of Rochdale. Eighteen months ago 56 beds were removed from the acute sector in order to reduce "over-spending", i.e. to compensate for non-funding of pay awards and increasing costs of providing a barely adequate service in a district with major social deprivation and poorly developed community services.

The service staggered on, pushing a similar number of patients through the reduced bed complement (with consequent stress on the reduced nursing force), hanging an increasing proportion of patients as day cases and siring to the bone ancillary, administrative and other non-clinical staff numbers.

Now, still unable to balance the books, we are faced with imminent closure of a further 98 beds, the redundancy of 100 or more nurses, a call for voluntary redundancy of six consultants to match, and "reorganisation" of non-medical staff rotas to reduce expenditure on cover at nights and at weekends.

The beds lost from acute general medicine - the largest planned cut - would be expected to house 1,000 patients in a year, 20-100 of whom would be likely to die in hospital,

depending on the mixture of cases. Without this number of beds, the remainder will rapidly be filled with patients of longer stay requirements, depriving us of the ability to admit many of those whose admission is most likely to determine the outcome of their acute illness.

With cuts in other departments, "bed-borrowing" will be extremely difficult, and neighbouring districts will be unable to shoulder our burden. Primary care facilities in the community, already inadequate, will be overwhelmed and lives will undoubtedly be lost.

There will be no chance for community-based services to be built up before the cuts are made, and the vicious circle begins.

"Safe with us", the Government said.

Yours,
DAVID N. FOSTER,
Birch Hill Hospital,
Rochdale,
Lancashire.

clearly that Eros always pointed towards Piccadilly.

Indeed, it would have been churlish had he done otherwise, since the bust of Lord Shaftesbury which adorned the low wall originally surrounding the base of the memorial was placed on the side nearest to Piccadilly, and the statue was sited to face over the bust.

With regard to the slight bias away from the perpendicular shown by the statue's supporting leg, (correctly observed by Mr Derrick L. Bowler, April 4), we can be sure that this is also intentional, as is confirmed by comparison with the original plaster model for the limb.

It is clear, therefore, that Gilbert considered the distortion to be necessary to convey the effect he desired.

The truth of the story about the bust on Lord Shaftesbury's name is far less certain. There appears in fact to be two contradictory stories: one claims that Gilbert did intend the downward pointing bow and the absence of an arrow to indicate a shaft buried in the ground; the other that he considered the idea of such a pun to be the "grossest form of ignorance". There can be no certainty which story, if either, is true.

Yours faithfully,
ASHLEY BARKER, (recently Surveyor of Historic Buildings to the Greater London Council),
English Heritage,
Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England,
Chesham House,
30 Warwick Street, W1.
April 7.

Return of Eros

From Mr Ashley Barker
Sir, It is good to know Eros is attracting attention in these columns on his return. Mr Frank T. Smith (April 2), raises again the question of the direction in which Eros should point and suggests that the statue should be pointing towards Shaftesbury Avenue.

This suggestion has been made on a number of occasions, but appears to be without foundation. Photographic evidence dating from 1893 (when the memorial was erected) onwards, shows

that the statue was sited to face over the bust.

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A common age for retirement

From Mr P. G. D. Naylor
Sir, Although the proposed changes in the consultative paper on sex discrimination and retirement age are a step in the right direction, they are, as your leader suggests (April 3), a compromise which will still give rise to inequities.

For example, as long as the State pension age remains 60 for women and 65 for men an equal retirement age in an organization of, say, 63 would have adverse impact on men, who could be forced by their employers to retire at 63 but would have to wait until 65 for a State pension.

This inequity is highly critical of both the Green and White Papers on the reform of social security for virtually dismissing one of the most fundamental areas in need of reform - ie the State pension age.

The so-called "retirement decade" floated in the Green Paper appeared to assume a pivotal point of 65 without, however, equalizing the State pension age. This, in our view, would do nothing to solve the problem of equality of retirement ages for men and women, which should be the prime objective.

You correctly attribute the reluctance of governments past and present to make any moves on this issue, primarily due to the problem of costs. For example, the present Government rejected the proposal to equalize the State pension age at 63 (favoured by ourselves and by the House of Commons Social Services Committee) on the grounds that it would cost £500 million net a year.

However, this calculation must make assumptions about (a) the pattern of retirement with change; (b) the actual reduction for earlier retirement; (c) the level of tax and/or NI contributions.

Each of these has its uncertainties and the second and third are matters for decision within government control. We believe there must be some combination of the three factors which would achieve a tolerable cost.

Back in 1980 we pointed out that no major social change, particularly one affecting pensions, can be implemented overnight, but because of the inevitable need for a transitional phase it is essential to set the long-term objective of a common retirement age now. This applies even more today than it did then.

The Government can no longer afford to procrastinate in the hope that the problem will eventually go away. It will not. It would be a pity to wait for yet another push from Europe before putting our own house in order.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. D. NAYLOR, Chairman,
Standing Committee on Discrimination,
Institute of Personnel Management,
Camp Road,
Wimbledon, SW19.
April 7.

Hope for S Africa

From Professor Roland Oliver
Sir, I agree with Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien (feature, March 29) that while minority rule in South Africa is most likely to be ended eventually by outside military intervention based on the self-interest collaboration of the superpowers. Indeed, any catastrophic level of civilian casualties incurred in the course of insurrection and repression might make that situation inevitable.

Of course one must continue to hope that it will not happen that way. But the only credible alternative is that white politicians in South Africa should succeed in persuading their constituents that radical change is the only way to prevent outside military intervention.

For that to be possible, there has to be much more public discussion by governments and in the world press of the logistics and conceivable scenarios of outside intervention. It will have to be done convincingly enough to provide South African politicians with their talking-points.

I suggest that what we have learned about the psychology of minority electorates, in Kenya and Zimbabwe for example, is that human beings can be remarkably adaptable once convinced that radical change is utterly inevitable. This gives cause for a little hope.

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND OLIVER,
Frisland Woodhouse,
Nr Newbury,
Berkshire.
March 31.

Amateur boxing

From the Director General of the British Safety Council
Sir, If your reader, Robin Gowanland (April 3) really believes that in amateur boxing the objective is not to hurt the other man, then he is living in a fool's paradise.

I suggest he goes, mixes with and listens to amateur boxers and hears what they really think. While he is at it, he might note that in the main they do not have the skills to duck, weave and ride a blow, as do most professionals.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES TYE, Director General,
British Safety Council,
National Safety Centre,
Chancellor's Road, W6.
April 4.

Sport, cigarettes and television

From the Chairman of the Health Education Council and others
Sir, Cigarette advertising was banned on television in 1965 because of the public and political view that it was wrong to use such a powerful medium to promote a product which contributes to the premature death of 100,000 people every year. By moving into sports sponsorship, the industry has turned a restriction into a massive marketing opportunity.

Your leader (March 31) calling for an end to this illicit advertising is welcome and timely. But the BBC must share as much blame as the tobacco companies for allowing children, in particular, to be exposed to cigarette promotion on such a scale.

The BBC is now transmitting over 350 hours of tobacco-sponsored sport on television each year, providing the cigarette companies, at a fraction of the cost, with the promotional opportunities denied to them by the advertising ban.

The BBC says it deals only with the governing bodies of sport, not with the sponsors. The cigarette companies are sponsoring the major televised sports because they are on television, and it is essential that the BBC takes this into account when deciding what sponsorship is acceptable.

The Director General has recently reminded producers of the BBC's own guidelines on sponsorship, but the photographic evidence of recent tobacco sponsored sport on BBC TV suggests that neither these guidelines, nor the agreement between the Minister of Sport and the Tobacco Advisory Council on the coverage of sponsored sport, are preventing audiences being exposed to blatant cigarette promotion.

Pariahs please

From Mr V. J. Downie
Sir, The anti-smoking lobby has gone too far! May I first establish my qualifications for joining in this debate: I did not smoke heavily until I was nearly 14 years old, but since then I have actively inhaled the smoke from approximately 900,000 cigarettes.

I cannot quantify my part in the latest craze, "passive smoking". From time to time I stop smoking altogether, and am thus able to appreciate and understand the distaste which non-smokers feel for me and my kind.

We are used to, and meekly accept, the humiliation of being treated as pariahs: we are herded into "unclean" areas in restaurants, trains, aeroplanes and cinemas... and in theatres, churches, and the London Underground we are not allowed to smoke at all.

Almost every shop in the country has a notice on its doors forbidding entry to smokers and dogs. I have no objection to this: I know that I smell, and I prefer dogs to some of my non-smoking acquaintances.

We accept that by smoking we are more liable to heart disease, halitosis, cancer of the lung, and a number of other afflictions... but

when we are told that by contracting these diseases we are increasing the nation's health bill I have had enough.

As a retired surgeon I am familiar with almost every known method of passing into the hereafter, and at the age of 73 I can anticipate my own impending demise in the not too distant future.

Experience in the Army and as a doctor has convinced me that there are only three entirely satisfactory ways of taking one's leave from this troubled world. One is to be instantly extinguished by bomb, shell, or bullet. The second is to have a catastrophic heart attack, and the third is to die under an anaesthetic on the operating table. All three will cause distress to the nearest and dearest, but absolutely none to the victim.

In so far as smoking can be said to contribute to the second of these mishaps, it is of proven benefit to the public purse, for the only expense necessarily incurred is that of a modest funeral.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
V. J. DOWNIE,
2 Inglewood Close,
Nyeritimer,
Bognor Regis,
West Sussex.
April 3.

Violence in Ulster

From the Reverend D. C. Johnston
Sir, Your say today, (leading article, April 10) that if the Hillsborough agreement "cannot be defended... against blatantly vicious and illegal intimidation, then very little improvement of life in the Province will be possible."

I submit the opposite is the case, for, prior to this agreement, the murder and violence statistics were at their lowest for over a decade. Besides, the IRA clearly perceives that Hillsborough is no threat, for their murder campaign continues.

The only effect of Hillsborough, so far, has been to alienate the entire Unionist community from the government - thus giving the hoodlum Unionist element unwitting moral support.

Hillsborough is to Unionists what Munich is to most British people today. It will be recalled that Mr Chamberlain's claims of "peace with honour" had widespread support here, then. It will also be recalled that the 1938 motion in Parliament approving the Munich agreement was carried by 366 votes to 144 - a warning against Parliament's infallibility over Ulster today.

Politics is the art of the possible. Hillsborough must be repeated or modified.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. JOHNSTON,
90 Lawn Avenue,
Great Yarmouth,
Norfolk.
April 10.

Oxfam in Nicaragua

From the Chairman of Oxfam
Sir, The charges of your columnist, Roger Scruton (April 8), concerning Oxfam's integrity and effectiveness must be answered. He queries whether Oxfam funds are honestly raised and wisely spent, accusing Oxfam of propaganda on behalf of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Oxfam's book on Nicaragua, as with other Oxfam publications, is based on long experience of working directly with poor people there. Our reports point both to achievements in the relief of poverty and the difficulties encountered, among which is the destruction wrought by the Contras. The book is intended to convey our aid and development experience and use rational persuasion to end the sufferings of peasant communities entangled in the spread of conflict.

From Mrs Jane Prior
Sir, You were kind enough to publish a letter from me immediately following the announcement of the Hillsborough agreement last November. I closed by saying that the young people of Northern Ireland would not lightly forgive those politicians who were not prepared to give the agreement a fair wind.

At this moment it appears that neither young people nor politicians are seeking that wind. After three years in Northern Ireland I am among the many who love and wish the Province well. Unless, and until both sides are prepared to give ground to each other - to take that first step that hurts the most - I, for one, begin to question why I should continue to care. This feeling could be catching - and perhaps lead to serious consequences for the Province.

For heaven's sake, talk it through and work it out!

Yours faithfully,
JANE PRIOR,
36 Morpeth Mansions,
Morpeth Terrace, SW1.
April 7.

From Mr R. Edgeworth Johnstone
Sir, To whom are the "Ulster Loyalist" extremists being loyal? They seem to be at war with everyone else, including us.

Yours faithfully,
R. EDGEWORTH JOHNSTONE,
7 Clarendon Mansions,
East Street,
Brighton,
Sussex.
April 9.

Tragically, with aid programmes in over 70 countries (of all political hues - in Chile no less than Nicaragua), we are receiving increasing demands for Oxfam funds to give humanitarian assistance in the world's conflict zones.

There can be few charities that go to such trouble to give full details of how donors' money is spent and to share with its supporters what it is doing. We believe that the tremendous breadth of support which Oxfam has across the country is largely due to its honest and open presentation of its accountability. We think Mr Scruton's accusations and queries are unworthy of your newspaper.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER B. BARBER,
Chairman,
Oxfam,
274 Banbury Road,
Oxford.
April 10.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 14 1945

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born January 30 1882 and died on April 12 1945 when his fourth term of office as the 32nd President of the United States was less than three months old. His first inauguration was in March 1933 and he is the only president to serve more than two terms - to which tenure the presidency is now limited following an amendment in 1951 to the constitution.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

From Our Own Correspondent
WASHINGTON, April 13
The whole American nation is mourning a lost leader who died in the hour of triumph. Far into the night crowds of sad, silent people gathered in front of the White House, which had been President Roosevelt's home for 12 years.

This morning every newspaper pays its tribute to a great President, and an avalanche of messages of condolence continues to pour into the White House. The people have been touched deeply by the warmth of feeling expressed in the messages from overseas, especially the message from Marshal Stalin, and the deep sense of personal loss evident in Mr. Churchill's telegram to Mrs. Roosevelt and the simple eloquence of his remarks in the House of Commons.

President Truman, who was sworn in last night, with the current presidential term less than three months old, said: "The world may be sure we shall prosecute the war on both fronts, east and west, with all the vigor we possess, to a successful conclusion." He implemented these words by authorizing Mr. Stettinius to continue with the arrangements for the San Francisco conference, and requested all members of the Cabinet to remain in office.

TALKS AT WHITE HOUSE

Mr. Truman drove to the White House early this morning, and during the day held a conference with the nation's leaders to discuss the continued prosecution of the war at top speed.

He has proclaimed tomorrow a day of mourning and prayer throughout the nation. It is also announced that Mr. Truman will address a joint session of Congress in the near future.

In his proclamation, Mr. Truman said of President Roosevelt that he lived to see the assurance of victory but not to share in it. His fellow countrymen would surely miss his fortitude, his faith, and his courage, but "the courage of great men outlives them to become the courage of their people."

The Secretary of State, Mr. Stettinius, in a formal statement this afternoon which was issued with President Truman's approval, said that there would be no "change of purpose or break in continuity" in American foreign policy because of President Roosevelt's death.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon in the East Room at the White House, after which the train will leave for Hyde Park, where the internment will take place.

[The whole hemisphere has decreased periods of official mourning for the man who pursued the good neighbour policy. In Brazil, President Vargas has proclaimed three days of official mourning. National mourning has also been decreed by President Farrell, of Argentina, and a memorial service will be held in Buenos Aires Cathedral. The Cuban Cabinet has ordered three days of mourning from today.]

'English Sunday'

From Mr Lewis F. Sturge
Sir, With the debate in the House of Commons on the Sunday trading Bill about to take place, the bench of Bishops is trying to influence opinion by what seems a wholly fallacious argument namely that the "English Sunday" is somehow a Christian institution.

It is nothing of the kind. It is simply the Mosaic law of the Sabbath quoted verbatim in the Book of Common Prayer from the Old Testament (Exodus xx) which was introduced into the English by the Puritans in their fundamentalist "back to the Bible" crusade in the seventeenth century.

Incidentally, at the same time they also introduced the second commandment in the Mosaic code prohibiting "graven images". The damage done to Peterborough Cathedral during the Commonwealth is a sad reminder of this.

In the light of the foregoing, may I, Sir, through your columns issue a challenge to the Bishop of St Albans. In the event of the Bill being defeated will he undertake to pick up a hammer and smash every statue and stained glass window in his cathedral or, if not, write a letter to you giving his reasons for his refusal?

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS F. STURGE,
Cotterstock Hall,
Near Oundle,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

All above board

From Mr R. A. Longmire
Sir, An advertisement on page 29 of today's issue (April 9) requires the services of a French-speaking secretary with fluent English. Apart from experience with word processing, mentioned in the job description, perhaps the ability to levitate would help!

Yours faithfully,
R. A. LONGMIRE,
Langdale,
Little Bookham Street,
Bookham, Surrey.
April 9.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 12: The Prince Andrew, Patron of the Badminton Association of England, this afternoon opened the National Badminton Centre at Milton Keynes.

His Royal Highness was received by the Vice Lord of Buckinghamshire (Mr J.M.A. Paterson), the Chief Executive of the Association (Air Vice-Marshal G.C. Lamb) and the Chairman of the Council of the Association (Mr G.D. Axford).

Wing Commander Adam Wise was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 12: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Grand

President of the St John Ambulance Association and Brigade, today attended the Regional Presidents' Conference at Bamber Bridge, Lancashire (Mr Simon Townley).

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lancashire (Mr Simon Townley).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Mrs Elizabeth Blair.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Alastair (Sandy) MacKenzie, Regional Medical Officer for North West Thames Regional Health Authority 1977-1982, will be held on Monday, April 28, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, London, SW1, at noon.

Marriages

Viscount Chewton
and Miss M.A.A. Furness

The marriage took place on Saturday at All Saints', Little Shelford, Cambridge, of Viscount Chewton, elder son of Earl and Countess Waldegrave, of Chewton House, Chewton Mendip, Somerset, and Miss Mary Alison Anthea Furness, daughter of the late Sir Robert Furness and of Lady Furness, of Little Shelford, Cambridge. The Rev S.C. Taylor officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by Dr Hilary Wayment and the Hon William Waldegrave, MP, was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P.C. Monk
and Miss A.M. Farnborough

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Andrew's, Bedford, of Mr Paul Charles Monk, eldest son of Mr Herbert Monk and Mrs Olive Cox, and Miss Alison Mary Farnborough, daughter of the Bishop of Bedford and Mrs Farnborough, assisted by the Rev Anthony Hulbert.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Richard Farnborough, was attended by Rebecca Waller, Helena Searns, Miss Lucinda Cox and Miss Dawn Monk. Mr David Monk, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. A reception was held at Bedford School and the honeymoon will be spent in the West Indies.

The Hon F.C.A.J. French
and Miss J.M. Welland

The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of the Palace of Westminster of the Hon Fulke Charles Arthur French, eldest son of Lord de Freyne and Mrs William Manser, and Miss Julia Mary Welland, only daughter, and Mrs James H. Welland.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr Richard Hunter was best man. A reception was held in the House of Lords and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

The Hon J.R.C. King
and Miss C.M. Jessop

The marriage took place on Saturday at Harrington, Lincolnshire, of the Hon Rupert King, youngest son of Lord King of Warrnamo and the late Mrs King, and Miss Catherine Jessop, only daughter of Mr R.B. Jessop and the late Mrs Jessop.

Mr N.A. Girkins
and Miss C.M.S. Czerin

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, of Mr Neil Girkins, son of Mr Gerald Girkins and the late Mrs Girkins, of Bordeaux, and Miss Charlotte Czerin, eldest daughter of Mr and the Hon Mrs Joseph Czerin, of London, SW7. The Right Rev Thomas Casey, the Rev John Lang, SJ, and the Rev Kenneth Nugent, SJ, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Sam, Aude and Aveline Rimbaud, Violette and Marlene Lecomte, Michael White, Alexander, Henrietta

and Laura Alocque and Miss Isabelle Czerin. Mr Peter Farrar was best man.

A reception was held at the Dorchester hotel and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.R. Maudslay
and Miss A. Latham

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Shoreham, Kent, of Mr John Rennie Maudslay, son of Major Sir Rennie and Lady Maudslay, of Broadbrone, Kent, and Miss Alexandra Latham, daughter of Dr and Mrs William Latham, of Shoreham. The Rev Dr G.S. Simpson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by William White, Patrick Fowler, Francesca Fell, Alice Dickie and Emily Constantini. Mr Anthony Constantini was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr T.J. Mills
and Miss P.M. Betts

The marriage took place on Saturday at All Saints', Birtling, Kent, of Mr Timothy Mills, son of Sir Peter Mills, MP, and Lady Mills, of Priestcombe, Crediton, Devon, and Miss Patricia Betts, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stewart Betts, of The Old Manor House, Otford, Kent. The Rev Struan Dunn officiated, assisted by the Rev Bruce Duncan and the Rev Bertie Berdoo.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by James Collin, Louise Crichton, Gemma Crockett, Miss Celia Betts and Miss Clare Pierce. Mr Jack Dalrymple was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Portugal.

Mr F. Nicholson
and Miss L. Souton

The marriage between Mr Frank Nicholson and Miss Lavinia Souton took place on Saturday, April 12, at St Gregory's Church, Bedale, North Yorkshire. Canon Frank Legard officiated and the blessing was given by Dom Mathew Burns.

The bride was attended by Mamie Scott, Lucy Nicholson, Rosie and Caroline Nicholson, David Buchanan, Dunlop, Elton, and Mrs Souton, and Mr Liell Franklin was best man.

A reception was held at the bride's home, Arbour Hill, Patrick Brompton.

Mr P.G. Wake
and Miss A.M. de C.L. Leask

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On receiving the letter *Scepis Officio* from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 1897, Pope Leo XIII is said to have remarked that he wished his own cardinals could write Latin of such elegance. The rest of his response is not recorded, and it has taken 80 years for Rome to comment further on the matter at stake: the validity of Anglican Holy Orders.

The archbishops' letter was nevertheless an important statement, in its own terms, of what Anglicanism was about. Most of the detail of *Scepis Officio*, which was drafted in fact by Bishop Wordsworth of Salisbury, was a point by point refutation of the bull *Apostolicae Curiae*, by which Pope Leo the previous year had declared Anglican orders "absolutely null and utterly void".

In its general conception, however, it was about Anglican origins and definitions, to which contemporary Anglicanism could well look back in its search for a more precise *raison d'être* now. It is also an essay on the limits to diversity, a recurrent Anglican preoccupation.

Rome's belated return to the debate about order, in a recently published letter from Cardinal Villabona to the chairman of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission, coincides with a new statement of the ground upon which Anglicanism stands, a report from the Inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission.

In *For the Sake of the Kingdom* the commission tries to face problems hardly existing when *Scepis Officio* was being written. Anglicanism then very largely meant the Church of England. Now it means 26 autonomous provinces, united by loyalty and affection to each other and to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The existence of a world-wide church raises questions of authority and identity, for instance over the issue of women priests and bishops, which need common basic principles by which may be judged what is true to the Anglican tradition and what is not. Those principles are to some extent hinted at in *For the Sake of the Kingdom*.

The report addresses the question of plurality in the Anglican Communion, and finds it a virtue, indeed a particularly Anglican virtue. Anglicanism was originally a transplanted faith, an uprooted Church of England in foreign soil, but it has since had to adapt and climate to widely different cultures, not even all English-speaking.

Nevertheless, the experience of Anglicans all over the world is that they are still consciously part of the same family, whatever their various cultural adaptations and languages. The commission's task was to try to describe and express that common sense of something in common which is stronger than all the differences.

The presence of diversity within Anglicanism has in the past provided an excuse for "anything goes", the Inter-Anglican commission admits. But it believes the unifying and identifying principle of Anglicanism has to be something more positive.

The report is not very clear what that is: there is a tendency to resort to vagueness and a sort of sociological mysticism which makes a virtue of not

being able to say exactly what it means. But premature definition is a worse vice, and world-wide Anglicanism is a relatively new phenomenon, in the time-scale of Christianity itself. It is difficult all the same to imagine the Inter-Anglican Theological and Doctrinal Commission writing *Scepis Officio*. That had the ring of certainty, and of the necessary confidence to express it.

It was marked, first of all, by certainty that the Church of England was the historic Catholic church of the English people, which happened, for reasons well known, to have fallen out with the rest of the Catholic Church.

Pope Leo was addressed as "our venerable brother" and the appeal was made to him and to "all other bishops of the Christian church settled throughout the world" by the archbishops and primates of England. It argued that the tradition was common to all of them, so discussion could take place between them on how to apply it.

Thus if the Church of England had varied the rite for ordaining priests - part of the case put by *Apostolicae Curiae* - it was an answer to show that similar variations had been accepted in the past. The English primates did not of course agree that the Bishop of Rome had the authority to rule the Anglican rite out of order; but they felt it important to state very carefully to him and to bishops everywhere - by which they meant Catholic bishops - why they differed.

They clearly did not think of themselves as "bishops of the Anglican Communion"; they were simply bishops of

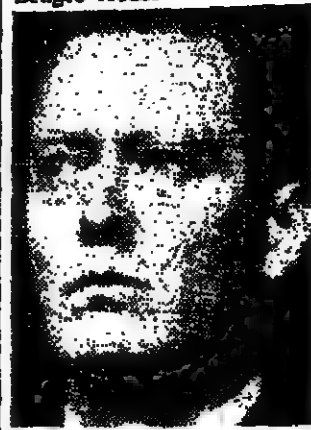
OBITUARY

SIR PHILIP HAY

Private secretary to Princess Marina

Sir Philip Hay, for many years Private Secretary to Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, and Treasurer to her son, the Duke of Kent, died on April 7 aged 68.

Philip Hay was born at Bengoe House near Hertford



in 1918 and was educated at Harrow and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read history and acquired his great love of books, pictures and music. At the outbreak of the second World War, he joined the Hertfordshire Yeomanry and, after the fall of Singapore in 1942, experienced the horrors of the Burma Railway. He returned, like many others, with his health impaired but his appreciation of man's more civilized achievements enhanced.

After a period of recuperation, spent largely in Italy, he

joined the picture department of Spinks. There he met and in 1948 married Lady Margaret Seymour who, from 1947, was a Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Marina's service. He and Lady Margaret had a common loyalty and devotion to their employers. They had three sons and it was a bitter blow to the family when Margaret died in 1975.

During the 1950's and 1960's Philip Hay was Private Secretary to Princess Marina. He was thus closely involved with her children as they grew up. In later years, he was to arrange extensive tours abroad for them and for Princess Marina, in particular to African countries then being granted independence. Those early "Royal tours" represented a new concept and a significant part of their success was due to his diligence and imaginative planning.

On the death of Princess Marina in 1968, Philip joined Sotheby's and so returned to the art world he loved. He was an erudite member of two leading artistic and literary societies the Dilettanti and Halkutt; his reading was eclectic and prodigious; his memory of pictures formidable. He had a warmth and a breadth of understanding which made him a wise counsellor. He leaves many books and many friends.

PROF LEONID KANTOROVICH

Professor Leonid Kantorovich, the prominent Soviet economist who shared the 1975 Nobel prize for economics, has died at the age of 74.

Kantorovich achieved not only the esteem of Western colleagues but the approval of the Russian authorities too.

Born in St Petersburg on January 19, 1912, he studied at Leningrad University and at various times held chairs there, at the Leningrad Institute of Industrial Construction Engineering and at the Novosibirsk State University.

His speciality was mathematical economics and he was an expert on linear programming, a mathematical technique for optimising the use of scarce resources.

His paper *Mathematical Methods of Organizing and Planning Production*, published in 1939, earned him the disapproval of the more traditional Marxist economists and it was almost two decades, until after the 20th Party Congress in 1956, before he could test his theories.

In his *Economic Calculation of the Best Use of Resources* (1959), which was translated into English in 1965, Kantorovich outlined the main theme of his work. In particular, he emphasised the importance of a rational pricing system in planning the economy.

Among his specific proposals was a selective employment tax to encourage a more rational deployment of labour. The tax would be disbursed through a special fund

which subsidised enterprises offering work in areas where employment opportunities were most limited.

Kantorovich also suggested the training of seasonal workers in a second job, being found jobs in canneries during slack periods. He also advocated the creation of more part-time jobs, especially for housewives and pensioners.

In the 1960s, when economic reforms began to be introduced, Kantorovich was convinced that the use of mathematical techniques for planning would bring about a swift increase in the Soviet national output. This was not to be, and it became clear that the technique had its limitations.

From 1971-76 Kantorovich was head of the research laboratory at the Institute of National Economy Control in Moscow. He was much honoured in his own country, twice receiving the Order of Lenin. Then in 1975 he was declared joint winner of the Nobel economics prize with the Dutch-born Yale economist Tjalling Koopmans. In that same year, Kantorovich's distinguished compatriot, the dissident physicist Dr Andrei Sakharov, was awarded the Nobel peace prize.

The Soviet authorities, amid speculation that Sakharov would be allowed to travel to Oslo to collect his prize on the same day that Kantorovich would travel to Stockholm to collect his, issued an exit visa to Kantorovich alone.

Parliament this week

COMMONS Today (12.30) House of Commons. Tomorrow (12.30) House of Commons. Wednesday (12.30) House of Commons. Thursday (12.30) House of Commons. Friday (12.30) House of Commons. Saturday (12.30) House of Commons. Sunday (12.30) House of Commons.

Wilson's School

Trinity Term begins today and ends on July 18. Half-term is from May 26 to 31. Mr Norman Friskney has been appointed to the governing body in place of the late Mr Leonard Alderson. W.R. Jackson remains school captain. The captain of cricket is N.M. Kendrick and the vice-captain is K.T. Mir. CCF field day is July 15 and sports day is May 23. A meeting for parents of boys joining the school in September will be held on the evening of June 19.

Science report

Safer, cheaper way of making plastic ahead

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A new industrial revolution is in the offing, replacing traditional manufacturing of plastics, pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals.

They will be safer processes because they avoid the high temperatures and high pressures of present methods. And they will be cheaper because they use less fuel than that needed to provide the heat energy for stimulating the chemical reaction.

The energy of injecting the energy at ordinary room temperatures depends on discoveries made in a new branch of science known as sonochemistry. Reports of experimental schemes were presented at the first meeting in the world devoted to this subject, during the annual conference of the Royal Society of Chemistry at Warwick University.

Contributors to the gathering came from Russia, France, Germany, Switzerland, Canada and the United States. But results from one of the leading academic research groups in Britain, presented by Dr Tim Mason, of Coventry (Lanchester) Polytechnic and organizer of the event, showed that reactions, involving major industrial chemicals, were completed 20 times more quickly than by the existing methods.

Describing the production of

synthetic rubber by sonochemistry, Professor Philip Boudjouk, of North Dakota State University, said an industrial plant would be operating in just over a year.

The development of sonochemistry from a chance observation in the laboratory that chemical reactions could be triggered by ultrasonic agitation of liquids. But it remained a textbook curiosity.

It works when a probe is placed in the liquid, emitting soundwaves of a higher than audible frequency, creating cavities which are in effect tiny bubbles but under immense pressures.

When the bubbles burst, the energy released triggers chemical reactions occur. Although the chemistry is new, equipment exists to carry out the process.

Though these devices are not on the scale that is already under examination in the development workshops of some major companies, laboratory ultrasonic devices are used for fragmenting cell walls of plants and tissues, so that components can be extracted for genetic engineering purposes.

Modified designs of these bioreactors for the new type of chemical plant were demonstrated by a new technology firm, Life Science Laboratories.

Clifford Longley

Search for Anglican identity

On receiving the letter *Scepis Officio* from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 1897, Pope Leo XIII is said to have remarked that he wished his own cardinals could write Latin of such elegance. The rest of his response is not recorded, and it has taken 80 years for Rome to comment further on the matter at stake: the validity of Anglican Holy Orders.

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Sale room

Chinese furniture fetches top prices

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's had a fine selection of the Chinese decorative arts on offer in New York at the end of last week but got a muted response from bidders, with a total of \$1 million and 30 per cent left unsold.

The sale was divided into three sessions, each of which scored roughly the same as the last. The first session, which was devoted to Chinese furniture, fetched a total of \$38,500 (estimate \$40,000-\$50,000) or \$25.163.

The highly ornamental drawings of these military scenes were made by French and Italian Jesuit missionaries working in China at the request of the emperor. The drawings were sent to France, where Louis XVI's court engraver, Charles-Nicolas Cochin, made the engravings.

The engravings were accompanied by a manuscript of the 16 poems written by the emperor commemorating the events depicted.

The clean geometric lines of the piece are, however, deviously embellished with scrolling lions stems carved in high relief.

The picture section also contained a fascinating relic of the early links between East and West, a set of 16 engravings of the Emperor Qianlong's victories over the Eleuths between 1755 and 1760, which sold for \$38,500 (estimate \$40,000-\$50,000) or \$25.163.

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Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHS - On March 22nd, in Virginia, U.S.A., a son (see Macdonald) and George, a daughter, Amanda Helen. **MARRIAGES** - On the 10th April 1968 in Sarah went with and Stephen, a son Edward John, a brother for Thomas.

DEATHS - On 11th April, to Susan (nee McCarthy) and Graham, a daughter, Alice Catherine, a sister for Anne. **MARRIAGES** - On 10th April to Karen (nee Welch) and Chris, a son, Matthew David (Wick).

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THE ARTS

Television Surprise in view

It must be an uniquely disquieting experience to discover, on settling down to a Saturday night's viewing, that you have been shopped to Scotland Yard. That was the jolt in store for the young Department of Trade clerk whom *20/20 Vision* (Channel 4) had filmed on the pretext of preparing a programme about everyday life in London; they were in fact making *Spying for the Camera*, a solemn and rather bitty report on the methods used by the Eastern Bloc's agents to trace defectors and recruit bread-and-butter spies, among whom the clerk is alleged to be numbered.

Linking commentary from the former MI5 intelligence officer Cathy Massiter entered a predictable plea for British intelligence to lay off the peace movement — a sentiment unlikely to appeal to the former Defence Minister Michael Heseltine who dominated *The Late Clive James* (ITV, Saturday). Urbane, amused, alert and with his hair well under control, Mr Heseltine demonstrated his true forte, which is as a talking head, which is as a talking head, which is as a talking head.

Mr James's valetudinary claim, "It's been a fascinating conversation", could hardly be applied to the verbal exchanges in *The South Bank Show* (LWT, Sunday), which was devoted to the phenomenon of *Brookside*, the Liverpool soap which draws Channel 4's biggest audience. Its creator Phil Redmond took Melvyn Bragg on a guided tour of the real housing development which houses nothing but the production company's offices, video editing suites and wardrobe store, and adroitly sidestepped the interviewer's attempts to give the soap a significance it does not possess; that was left to Laurie Taylor, to Charles Sturridge ("I'm a fan") and to the scribes who write the wretched thing. As Mr Redmond observed, explaining his own switch from script to production, "We're in it, at the bottom of the pile in TV — even below the actors".

Martin Cropper

*E lo ha entrato nella peccia
e fo delent: p' intrapreso gropa
e p' sp' f'za gli'chi' m'noo f'ano*

Art-lovers preparing to visit Rome this summer will find Michelangelo's roof of the Sistine Chapel undergoing an amazing transformation: on the occasion of the completion of the first section of the vault, Gianluigi Colalucci, who is in charge of the restoration, talks to Nigel McGilchrist

Why history will need to be rewritten

"My backside has vanished into the curve of my back; my face looks like a coloured pavement from the drops of my brush..." Alongside the sonnet in which Michelangelo describes in such terms the agonies of working on the vault of the Sistine Chapel, he has added in the margin a sketch of himself at work, dashed off with blissful simplicity. To one man, four and three-quarter centuries later, that pose is very familiar. Working more slowly than Michelangelo, and with expertise of a different kind, Gianluigi Colalucci spends much of his day on a scaffolding not so very different from Michelangelo's. Five years ago he began a routine check on the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. He has ended up piloting a restoration work which will necessitate the rewriting of many pages of the history of art.

The removal of 4cm of dirt and candle-smoke, of salty deposits from the leaking roof, and the gums and applications of many previous restorations, has been like removing a thick veil from Michelangelo's work. It has changed what we see of Michelangelo; it has changed the vision of hundreds of years. "It is a terrible responsibility for me," says Colalucci, "because around that dimmed and smoky view of Michelangelo a whole culture had formed itself. It is a great problem to change that vision — and many will not accept the change. We are so used to

ruined things and darkened paintings that it is literally a shock for us to see something so fresh and clear." Who are these people who do not accept it? "Principally artists. The art historians and critics have been delighted; their response has been overwhelmingly good. But some painters remain tied to what they saw before. In the nineteenth century there was a genuine fear of colour — think of D'Annunzio, for example — and we are still the heirs of that fear. But Michelangelo was as Tuscan and as Renaissance in spirit as could be, and he worked, therefore, precisely and boldly in areas of pure, pure colour. What we are revealing in the Sistine Chapel is, I genuinely believe, something very close to how the frescoes must have seemed when they were painted. Their state of conservation underneath is unbelievably good — in fact, we would never have undertaken the work if this had not been the case.

"This is due to an unexpected fact. The technique which Michelangelo used in the Sistine Chapel reminds me very much of someone working in watercolour. Although the pigment is strong and pure, the actual paint layer is so thin and wash-like that it hardly forms a 'skin', and, consequently, the damaging salty deposits from dampness and infiltration have simply passed through the surface, leaving it intact, instead of pushing it off the

Michelangelo's
lament (in a
sonnet of 1511
to Giovanni da
Pistoia) and
self-caricature;
and Gianluigi
Colalucci (left)
with his
assistants
Piergiorgio
Bonetti and
Maurizio Rossi
applying solvent
to the vault of
the Sistine
Chapel roof

wall as happens in so many cases with fresco. The colours are so thin and pure that the varying degrees of white of the *intonaco* beneath illuminate them from behind.

About one third of the vault has been cleaned at present; the rest remains as before. Seeing, as a visitor, the two areas side by side is an extraordinary and disquieting experience. It is rather like hearing the Fortieth Symphony of Mozart suddenly transposed from the minor into the major key. It is easy to understand and even to share that nostalgia for the dirty, old Michelangelo. The new Michelangelo is stupendous when seen close to, or in detail; but, viewed from below, it has an almost gaudy brilliance. It will take many years for it to create its own aesthetic and the taste by which it is to be appreciated. In the meantime, we must learn again a Renaissance taste, and unlearn our 19th-century predilections. No bad thing.

"What I would say to those who come to visit the chapel this year," says Colalucci, "is 'Try to put out of your mind the values of Baroque and Romantic art, and all that came after Michelangelo. Try to enter into the mentality of the Renaissance man and his whole culture.' Michel-

angelo was apprenticed to the workshop of Ghirlandajo. Like all Florentine workshops, it was ruled with a rod of iron; in it one simply did not make mistakes. And that clarity and purity and boldness which we see in the Sistine Chapel is the very essence of those Florentine, Renaissance values.

"Working so close to the surface, we can clearly see the divisions of the *gornate* (the areas of plaster applied wet and completed in one day's work by Michelangelo), the points where the cartoons were attached — all the evidence of the classic fresco-painter's technique. Some very small areas of copying were entrusted to assistants, but what is clearer than ever is that, on the majority of the frescoes, Michelangelo worked alone and with almost unknown rivalry, adjusting and distorting his figures continually so as to compensate for the optical changes caused by distance from the floor and the curve of the surface he was painting. Sometimes the speed and concentration with which he produces his effects seem never to let up.

"I see Michelangelo as the great architect of painting. A few years ago I had the opportunity to work

on the Titians at Padua. Nothing could be more different. Colours flow off Titian's brush as if it were a fountain; one brush-stroke contains the remains of another, previous colour. Michelangelo, on the contrary, is of a cleanliness and precision that is unequalled. There are never more than three tones of the same colour, and they are applied independently in a thin wash: the whole sculptural effect, the whole Sistine Chapel, is achieved with these minimal means."

I had actually asked Dr Colalucci whether, having worked so close and so long with the artist, he really liked Michelangelo's style. The understandable way in which the restorer had evaded the question pinpoints its irrelevance: the concept of "liking" Michelangelo is slightly beside the point, just as would be the concept of "liking" Moses or Marx. The Sistine Chapel is an almost superhuman *tour de force*, epic in dimensions and dogmatic in spirit. With the recent cleaning, it is just those values which appear now bolder and more magnificent than ever before. It has always been difficult to get very close to the spirit of the Sistine Chapel; now that it is cleaned, it is like trying to get close to a trumpet.

Rock Furious

Screaming Blue Messiahs Marquee

While Hüsker Dü continue to carry off the bouquets, the Screaming Blue Messiahs from London were back in town to offer a genuinely challenging variation on the guitar-rock formula.

They were lifted from obscurity by a heavily endorsed appearance on *Whistle Test* in 1984, when their drummer, Kenny Harris, feigned illness to get the day off work from the high-street bank where he was then employed. He did not look too well at the Marquee. As the constant battering he applied to his kit dislodged the tape protecting an already raw finger-wound, he looked for succour to the bullet-headed singer/guitarist Bill Carter. But Carter, looking like a crazed Eric von Stroheim in one of his evil-genius roles, was not about to indulge any backsliding, and launched straight into the next number, bare fingers straining his battered Telecaster with careless abandon.

There was no dalliance with pop melodies or traditional song structures with this trio. Their appeal was strictly related to their sinister, grimy riff patterns, grown like malignant cultures from a long-deceased tissue of blues, and the repeated bursts of furious, destructive noise that recalled the exhilaration of seeing Pete Townshend, in the early days of The Who, literally destroy his equipment on stage.

The magnetic Carter intoned his cabalistic messages in a heavily-echoed toneless drawl, while Chris Thompson played bass patterns that collided like pounding slabs against the rhythm of the words. "Good and Gone", "I Want Up" and "Let's Go Down to the Woods and Pray" were the best of a collection of vigorous, morbid songs that single-mindedly distilled the rock element of aggression inherent in rock music, and bore down with implacable, escalating force on the capacity crowd, mesmerized like moths beating against the deadly glare of a neon light.

"Messiahs" may be pitching it a bit high, but they are a fascinating band who deliver an unique thrill.

David Sinclair

Dance Classic role magically transfigured

Romeo and Juliet Covent Garden

It is not easy to explain just what it is that Gelsey Kirkland did to transfigure and illuminate the role of Juliet in the Royal Ballet's familiar production at Covent Garden on Friday night.

Sometimes, for instance in her responses to her nurse and to her father, you could point to a particular gesture, something she has modified or introduced to clarify an incident or reveal a thought. More often it was a question of emphasis in a sequence; in 21 years of watching this production for instance I have never seen any Juliet make it so clear, when compelled to dance with Paris in the last act, that she is not so much straining away from him as reaching towards the window where she last saw Romeo.

But it is not simply what she introduces that makes the difference, rather a question of how she undertakes every step, every phrase, every scene throughout the ballet. Kirkland is a perfectionist. I have the impression that she takes nothing for granted, that absolutely everything she does on stage has been taken apart, considered, weighed, judged with fastidious care.

In putting it together again for the performance, she works her miracle. Somehow every detail is brought to life, made into a vital part of a living, moving whole. Hers is not an especially animated Juliet; in fact there is a deep stillness, an inwardness, about the girl you see fall in love,



Intense, inward passion: Gelsey Kirkland with Anthony Dowell as her Romeo

grow up and die within three hours on stage and a few days of dramatic time. But there is never any doubt that she is a real person, intense, passionate, suffering.

Hers was already a very special Juliet when she danced with the Royal Ballet previously in 1980, but it has become richer and deeper since then. It is no secret that Kirkland has had problems meanwhile, partly caused by the intense temperament that makes her one of the greatest dancers of our day.

This performance was actually the first time she had appeared on stage for about two years. At the end, when Anthony Dowell, her Romeo, left her alone to acknowledge the applause while hundreds of daffodils were showered on stage from the upper tiers, she buried her face in her hands and wept. I think there were many damp eyes in the audience too.

I wish I could report that the rest of the cast had gained as much as Kirkland's example. Dowell must have credit for the care and polish of his sympathetic, immensely supportive performance, but he is not the most fiery of Roméos and, although still a fine partner and stylish dancer, his technique is wearing a little at the edges, as revealed in unstretched knees and precariously finished pirouettes.

Among the other dancing roles, only Ashley Page's Benvolio has the wild, roistering quality that once marked all the male ensembles in this production, and only Julian Hoskings's kind, affectionate Paris responded to Kirkland's presence with a complete rethinking of his own performance, adding attentive new details that complemented hers. Sandra Conley is a notably warm, human Lady Capulet, and Derek Rencher's Capulet is intelligently acted although a lack of weight and authority in his dancing reduces the effect of the men's dance at the ball.

Mark Ermler's presence as guest conductor made surprisingly little difference to the orchestral playing. Apart from Kirkland, the star of this revival is Nicholas Georgiadis, whose immense, monumental designs give the production its most impressive distinguishing feature.

John Percival

Theatre Comic contrasts

The Suburbs of Hell ICA

An ominous chord begins pulsating as the midnight-blue light discloses three vaults. Enter a black-cloaked figure who inspects the stage perimeter, gun at the ready, and then approaches the vaults. "Anyone in?" it asks, at which the effigy stirs and turns out to be a small boy in bed.

That is typical of the effects sprung by the aptly-named Hidden Grit Theatre. Lured, fantastically costumed ghouls swirl out of the darkness and then subside into small talk. Like many an ICA group, this company is out to challenge the tyranny of the word; but its particular trade mark is to exploit the comic contrast between portentous music and lighting and suburban utterance. However, there is more to Brian Lipson and Graeme

Miller's piece than straightforward deflation. It is an exercise in Jacobean science-fiction, set in a future when hand-guns, according to the programme summary, are as commonplace as hand-made shoes.

I take the company's word for it that their show tells a tale of Spencer, hero-apparent to the giant Albion concern, who finds himself unequal to the job when his father is assassinated. From where I was sitting, Spencer (Mr Lipson) came over as no more than a malcontent underling to the fiery Rhys (Alan Brown), who bestrides the territory in leather-look jodhpurs, hogging the microphone after a Wagnerian build-up for the post-assassination obsequies, and obligingly polishing off Spencer's Japanese wife.

Comedy periodically rises to the surface throughout Andy Wilson's production.

Irving Wardle

They Fairly Mak Ye Work Dundee Rep

Billy Kay has brought aspects of Scottish social history still within reach of living memory into focus for Scottish audiences several times already, through radio and television series interviewing people with memories of what have become almost other worlds. Now he has taken material from one of those oral history programmes and shaped it into a documentary drama based largely on the life and experiences of one of his interviewees — Sarah Craig, who worked in the Dundee jute mills from the early 1900s when she turned 14.

Using her as main protagonist, the play then shows us life in and around the mills from just before the First World War until the 1930s. What develops is a document that is crammed with fascinating and often saddening detail (much of it clearly half-familial to the local audience), but that also charts the changing attitudes of a close-knit working-class community through landmarks such as the war, the National Strike and the Means Test, and that explores the reasons why both Winston Churchill and the Communist Party (represented here by Sarah's husband) were rejected by a people whose life had

to be lived from day to day. It is then a valuable and intriguing exercise, crystallizing a past that is still important for the city today. As a play, however, it does not quite work, partly because it has no real focus or plot and partly because the sheer wealth and weight of detail, so accurately observed, conversely works against the feel of authenticity — a slice of life, but on a plate.

Billy Kay emerges as a good editor and a sharp writer rather than a playwright: facts are neatly edited into scenes written with wit and an ear for dialogue but are linked together in Alan Lyddiard's busy production by time-honoured working songs, made soulful by Michael Narra's husky, world-weary voice.

Sarah Hemming

Paul Roberts Wigmore Hall

The piano repertoire is not exactly lacking in picturesque, late-Romantic pieces, but a minor place of honour should now be found for the compositions of Déodat de Séverac. Thanks to the resourceful Paul Roberts, this turn-of-the-century Frenchman's music was heard in London on Friday night, apparently for the first time in more than 50 years.

Most of Séverac's life was spent in villages on the French/Spanish border, and his piano music has the same tang of flamenco as that of his friend Albeniz, though (on this evidence anyway) he lacked Albeniz's skill at subtly manipulating the accent.

Roberts played five pieces. *Les Fêtes* and *Cheval dans la prairie* were both excellent evocations of landscape using a sophisticated keyboard palette. Two slower pieces were

Concerts

more in the brooding, modal Spanish style: *Les Muletiers devant le Christ de Livia* presenting a particularly impressive contrast between its rather awesome outer sections and its major-key centre, where Debussy-like oscillations shimmered consolingly.

Best of all was *Baigneuses au soleil*. Sunbathing in 1908 was obviously a daring activity, judging by the frolicsome discords and splashy toccata effects here, although a subdued coda perhaps casts a moral gloss on these jolly nudists. Debussy said that Séverac wrote music which "one breathes in through the heart": an improbable anatomical feat, but one knows exactly what he meant.

Roberts sensibly surrounded Séverac with his French and Spanish contemporaries. His playing had its tender moments, but never lacked imagination or enthusiasm.

Richard Morrison

Milan/Thomas Wigmore Hall

There seems to be a jinx against Robert Walker's *Singer by the Yellow River*, a setting for soprano, flute and harp of a far-eastern-style ballad written by Robert Gittings. Anna Mackay, its soprano soloist, had a car crash on the way to its first public performance in Chichester; for what was to be its first London performance on Saturday, she became ill at the very last minute, and the entire second half of the evening was called off.

I had heard her, half an hour before the concert, warming up like a nightingale: she was obviously as baffled as her audience by the disappearance of the voice seconds before kick-off. So instead of Saint-Saëns's "Flûte invisible", it was a case of *la voix invisible*, and Susan Milan and Caryl Thomas gamely filled the first half with their contributions to the shared recital.

It is, after all, worth travelling quite some distance at any time to hear Miss Milan's flute-playing, and her Debussy *Syrinx* was worth every fleeting second. Caryl Thomas, too, gave an exuberant performance of Fauré's *Impromptu* for harp, a strong, big-boned piece in which the undulating arpeggios and intertwining accompaniments of his piano music seem to have reached their true medium.

The discovery of the evening, though, was Eugene Bozza. The operas, ballets and

Hilary Finch

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

US NOTEBOOK

Japanese problem still dogs industry

From Maxwell Newton
New York

There is increasing disappointment over the failure of the devaluation of the dollar to ameliorate the problems of United States manufacturing industry.

After rising in the last few months of 1985 manufacturing employment plunged during January and February. In January it fell by 13,000 and in February by 42,000. By February 28 about 19.4 million were employed in manufacturing, fewer than the averages for 1985 and 1984.

There is also concern over the weakness of manufacturing orders. February orders were revised down by 1.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Japanese reported a current account balance of payments surplus of \$3.94 billion in February, a record for that month. The cumulative surplus since April 1985 was \$48.2 billion, already exceeding the record \$37 billion of the 1984 financial year. Japanese exports in February increased by 17.8 per cent to \$15.05 billion while imports gained \$1.1 per cent to \$10.2 billion.

Trade friction between Japan and the US will be at the top of the agenda for the talks this week between President Reagan and the Japanese prime minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone. The steps taken by Japan since the first G5 meeting in September, while representing a huge step forward for Japan, have by no means measured up to the dimensions of the trade deficit problem facing the US.

Japan is the focal point of the frustration of US officials who had hoped for more from the G5 process. The resistance being mounted by the Japanese at 180 yen to the dollar is causing anger.

Unfortunately for America, even if the "Japan problem" is solved — and that is most unlikely — there are several other, substantial problems. The only one willing to take up any gaps left in the US market by the departing Japanese. Most of these nations have been outside the G5 process and they have either devalued against the dollar, or have maintained parity at the pre-September 22, 1985 level. Such currency policies have confronted the Japanese with ruthless competitors.

There is no indication yet, however, that the Japanese are losing market share. Although the yen has appreciated by 35 per cent against the dollar since September 22, landed prices of Japanese goods, measured in dollars, have risen by about 10 per cent.

There is huge absorption of the currency loss taking place both by the Japanese exporter and the American dealer. US dealers in Japanese cars habitually added on a special dealer margin of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 when the dollar was strong. Now there is the opportunity to maintain market share by eating some of this fat.

Malaysia seeking to reschedule debts

From M G G Fildes, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia, beset by sharply lower commodity prices and a weakening currency, has asked to reschedule its foreign debts.

The prime minister, Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamed, told a group of businessmen at the weekend that sharply declining revenues next year would make it impossible for Malaysia to repay its foreign debts on schedule.

He gave no details, but the rescheduling of the debts and a devaluation of the ringgit have been widely predicted over the past few months.

Malaysia's external debt rose sharply from mid-1982

Woolworth outlines plan to counter Dixons bid

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Woolworth yesterday fired off the first defensive broadside in its attempt to stave off the £1.6 billion bid mounted by Dixons, the electronics retailer.

It was the first move in a week which will also see the victors in two of the biggest and longest running bid battles ever fought in the City, for Imperial Group and Distillers.

Woolworth sent shareholders details of a new strategy, Operation Focus, as part of its defence against the Dixons bid.

In his letter, Mr Geoff Mulcahy, group chief executive of Woolworth, set out plans which include eliminating adult clothing and food from Woolworth shops, and concentrating on six key areas of business. The move will liberate 1 million sq ft of space for Focus areas.

The six areas are Kids, Gifts and Sweets, Entertainment, Home and Garden, Kitchenware and Books, for cosmetics and fashion accessories. Operation Focus will take one year to implement.

In results published two weeks ago, the group showed a £22.7 million profit turnaround. Mr Mulcahy said yesterday: "A big contribution

to the performance came from the six Focus areas which we were already beginning to specialise in. The results have given us the confidence to adopt a more dramatic policy."

Dixons, due to issue its formal offer document for

Extel chief rejects the Demerger offer

Mr Alan Brooker, chairman of Extel Group, has rejected unequivocally the revised offer from Demerger Corporation.

In a letter to shareholders he accuses DMC of ignorance and poor judgement about Extel revealed, he says, by "many errors and inaccuracies" in its revised offer document.

The revised offer, made ten days ago, eliminated loan stocks, which would have been issued under the original reconstruction plan, and included a fully underwritten cash alternative of 400p an Extel share. DMC's bid terms value Extel at more than £173 million.

Mr Brooker attacked DMC's claims that Extel's

Woolworth this week, has also said it will drop some lines, but Mr Mulcahy described its plans as "extremely vague and inconsistent". He added: "Nothing they have said convinces us that they have any understanding of the differences between our business

and their chains of small photographic shops".

Dixons also plans to sell Comet, Woolworth's electrical goods retailing offshoot. Harris Queensway has already had talks with Dixons.

In the meantime, Lord Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust, is likely to announce victory today in the £2.8 billion battle for Imperial Group after the defeat of his rival, United Biscuits, on Friday.

After UB's withdrawal from the contest with control of only 34.1 per cent of Imperial's shares, Hanson Trust extended its offer, saying it controlled more than 40 per cent of the shares. The announcement of more than 50 per cent control by Hanson Trust is regarded in the City as inevitable.

The £2.5 billion battle between Guinness and Argill Foods for Distillers is also due to end this week when both bids close on Friday.

The contest is certain to end in considerable costs for those involved. Argill is likely to face costs of more than £25 million if it loses and £116 million if it wins.

● Woolworth chief, page 25

No N Sea cutbacks, Opec told

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The oil producers' cartel, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is still pinning its hopes for an end to the world oil price collapse on a cut in production by North Sea companies, despite a warning from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, that it should not interfere in North Sea production levels.

Output in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea has now been halted for over a week because of a strike by oil rig catering staff and many companies operating in the British sector are now considering slowing down production this summer to carry out maintenance work on platforms and pipe lines while oil prices are near the cost of production.

The Norwegian dispute has removed one million barrels a day from North Sea output, 900,000 from the fields in the Norwegian sector and 100,000 from those which straddle the UK-Norway borders.

Opec has calculated that another 500,000 barrels a day could be cut from Britain's 2.7 million barrel a day production level by bringing forward maintenance this summer.

The warning that Britain has no intention of interfering directly in the oil companies' production levels was given to Opec by Mr Lawson in a weekend speech to oil industry and banking executives in the United States.

Thirteen oil ministers of the Opec countries will assemble in Geneva today to hear reports from their expert committees on world demand

Lawson warned on monetary policy

By Our Economics Editor

Monetary policy is in a "dangerously uncertain situation", according to Mr Gavyn Davies and Mr David Morrison, chief economists at Goldman Sachs.

In a special report previewing the speech the Chancellor is due to make on monetary policy on Wednesday, they argue there is a vacuum at the heart of Mr Nigel Lawson's financial strategy, and that it should be filled with a target for the rate of increase in unit costs in the economy.

Mr Lawson's speech, in which he has promised to provide the explanation of his existing monetary policy which was lacking in the Budget, will be carefully examined by the City. It follows the overshoot of sterling M3 last month, the Chancellor's hints of a worldwide fall in interest rates and the Government's decision to pass up the recent opportunity to clarify exchange rate policy by taking sterling into the European Monetary System when the EMS was comprehensively realigned for the first time in three years.

In another report released today, Mr John Young, economist at Lloyd's Bank, argues last week's realignment had afforded the best opportunity yet for sterling to join the fixed exchange rate mechanism, but Messrs Davies and Morrison do not believe it is a desirable way of solving the monetary conundrum.

They point out the Chancellor's target for sterling M3 has been based on the assumption that the income velocity of this measure of money — the speed with which



Nigel Lawson: promised to explain monetary policy

it changes hands — will drop by 6 per cent this year. This, they argue, is a very risky assumption.

Their report for Goldman Sachs suggests a variety of reasons why velocity may be falling. The most worrying is the idea that the private sector is building up a "buffer stock" of money as one of the consequences of financial liberalization.

However, the authors argue, even if this is the explanation, the consequences for inflation may not be too adverse, but the situation needs to be carefully monitored.

Messrs Davies and Morrison believe some form of additional early warning signal is needed. They argue for a unit cost guideline, which they claim offers the best guide to inflation prospects six to nine months ahead.

Despite their warnings, they believe the prospects for lower British interest rates remain good, with the strength of the pound and the prospect of falling inflation indicating further cuts.

Tokyo to fight yen rise

From David Smith, Tokyo

The Japanese government will resist attempts to force up the value of the yen further, to help reduce the country's huge trade surplus.

Last week in Washington, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, said that there was widespread agreement that the yen needs to rise further.

However, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister who left at the weekend for talks in the United States with President Reagan and leading congressmen, will argue strongly that this is not the way to direct Japan's trade imbalance.

Mr Nakasone, armed with the Maekawa report on changing the structure of the Japanese economy, and details of his economic package announced last Tuesday, will try to convince the US that Japan has already taken big steps to cut its trade surplus.

The difficulty for Japan is that the fall in the world oil price and the delayed effects of the yen's rise on trade — the inverted J-curve — will mean that the trade surplus is likely to widen, probably to between \$70 billion and \$80 billion this year.

Japanese ministers and businessmen say that the yen's sharp shift from above 240 to below 180 against the dollar is already having considerable effects on the economy.

A strong yen rise from the present 178 level would hit small and medium-sized businesses hard and damage Mr Nakasone's already slim chances of remaining in office beyond this autumn.

Nakasone under US pressure

From Bailey Morris
Washington

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone arrived in Washington yesterday and signs that Western nations are becoming impatient with Japan's slow progress in recycling its huge trade surplus.

Mr Nakasone is anxious to achieve harmony and lay the ground work for a more dramatic announcement at next month's economic summit in Tokyo to demonstrate for domestic political consumption that Japan is accepted as an equal by other industrialized nations, officials said.

For this reason, he has asked that the two days of bilateral talks which began yesterday at the Presidential retreat Camp David concentrate on global political issues such as terrorism, disarmament and the Philippines.

But US officials said that trade will remain a dominant issue.

At a meeting of world finance ministers in Washington last week officials made clear they intend to put renewed pressure on Japan to open its economy to western goods and to allow the yen to rise further.

"The fact that Japan is now screaming about the rise in the yen, saying it has gone up too far too fast, means that the medicine is working," a US official said.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Exclusive: the new world debt plan...

At last week's Washington meetings, the United States Treasury Secretary, James Baker, announced that the key industrial governments had endorsed his plan for feeding \$40 billion of new money into economies worst hit by the international debt crisis, and that this plan had received "an unprecedented joint statement of support by the managing director of the International Monetary Fund and the president of the World Bank".

Mr Baker's critics have become restless, pointing out that his plan has been a little slow to yield results. But the task of reshaping the debt strategy is a big one. Neither the IMF, the World Bank nor the US Treasury have found it easy to formulate criteria for the new loans.

No such inhibitions seem to bother the US State Department, from which the following blueprint, which has found its way into other foreign ministries, is said to have originated. Coded top secret, of course.

Official Application Form for the Baker Plan

Instructions: Please print or type in English. Do not leave any items blank or your country may be declared ineligible for medium-term financing. Although this is an application form, it is neither offer to buy nor to sell the Baker plan, which can be done only by a prospectus. The Securities and Exchange Commission has not expressed an opinion about the Baker Plan. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. Send completed form to US Treasury, Washington, DC.

1. Country/Continent.....

2. Person who is knowledgeable about the country's economy. Name (Mr, Ms, Miss, Mrs, Dr, President-for-life, H.E.).....

3. Form of Government (circle one): a) Genuinely Democratic Republic, b) People's Republic, c) Military Junta, d) One-man Military Dictatorship, e) Generic Dictatorship, f) Bloody-minded Dictatorship, g) Benevolent Dictatorship.

4. Method of accession to power (circle one): a) Democratic election, b) Rigged election, c) One-party state with pro forma election, d) Deposed predecessor in bloodless coup, e) Deposed predecessor in bloody coup because of rampant corruption that tarnished the sacred reputation and innocent honor of my country, f) Deposed predecessor because I want to be the boss myself and because he humiliated me.

5. Please list all of your country's assets, including physical assets. Assign value in US\$ at the lower of market or acquisition price. For fixed assets associated with white elephant projects, for which there is no market value, specify the present value of the return on investment over a 20-year period, discounted at 13.465%. For

crops rotting in the field, assign value of 10 per cent of market price, where this is a 5-year moving average.

Foreign exchange reserves..... Real property held abroad (eg. Swiss chalets, villas on the Riviera, condos in Miami).....

Used Mercedes Benzes..... The shirts on your people's backs..... White elephant projects.....

Other elephants (value of ivory only).....

Minerals in the ground and in storage.....

Other assets (eg. matchsticks).....

6. Attach a separate sheet listing all debts, broken down by creditor. Include those debts which your country has no intention of paying, despite protestations to the contrary (eg. we want to pay our debts because we are honorable people, but please help us by giving us more money). List also debt service due every year through 1990. Include prospective interest on gap financing.

7. List 5 references from respectable financial institutions (ie. not in the Cayman Islands or Liechtenstein)

8. Provide a short economic history of your country. Discuss only relevant issues (ie. not the colonial or neo-colonial exploitation of your country's labor and resources). Do not exceed space provided.....

9. Where do you see your country economically in 10 years?.....

10. How much money do you need?.....

If US dollars are not available, are you willing to accept Somali shillings or Indian rupees? Yes/no.....

11. Method of delivery (circle one): a) I will pick up on next trip to Washington, DC, b) telex to my country's account with (bank) in New York, c) Send to my Swiss bank account, d) Federal Express.

The undersigned attests to the following:

(i) that he/she is duly authorized to undertake financial commitments on behalf of the government of..... (ii) That if found qualified, the said government will comply with all of terms and conditions of the Baker plan, including sustained implementation-of-comprehensive-stabilization-and-structural-adjustment-programs-that-unleash-the-magic-of-the-marketplace-and-command-support-of-the-IMF-and-World-Bank.

(iii) The undersigned moreover pledges all of the government's foreign exchange reserves, real property, wealth of its subsoil and future export earnings as collateral for any loans received under the Baker plan. (Note that collateral cannot be pledged more than once.)

Signature.....

Sarah Hogg

Economics Editor

Tesco may expand in Europe and US

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Tesco Stores, Britain's second biggest grocer and growing quickly, is studying the prospects of expansion abroad, especially in Europe and the United States.

It is also looking for diversification possibilities, probably by acquisition.

Mr Ian MacLaurin, the chairman, said that the options were being studied in a "think tank" approach to planning the group's future beyond the next five years.

Mr MacLaurin said that any diversification move would be based on the early development phase of what would promise to be a growth area.

Tesco was unlikely, for instance, to buy a do-it-yourself chain because that

was already a mature market. But he pointed out: "It does not mean we would not look at particular deals if they were attractive."

Mr MacLaurin emphasised that Tesco's present preoccupation was to complete the build-up of its chain of superstores, many on the edge of towns. The link between Tesco and Marks and Spencer in jointly developing district shopping centres is being strengthened. Work begins soon at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, where an M & S store will go up near a Tesco outlet, with half a dozen smaller shops. Five to six sites for similar joint developments are being examined.

Tesco has just sold an



Ian MacLaurin: "options are being studied"

unprofitable shops chain in Northern Ireland and also the successful Victor Value chain of smaller outlets in Britain which were fully equipped with electronic point of sale (EPOS) systems.

These had been a valuable EPOS tested, said Mr Mac-

Laurin, who sees EPOS going into all the key Tesco outlets.

But Tesco is not targeting edge-of-town sites only for its stores. Among in-town developments are stores at Brixton, Lewisham and Epping in the London area and Weston-super-Mare in the west.

Mr MacLaurin was introducing the 15th of his company's occasional papers.

The paper looks at the growing debate over the future of high streets in Britain's more traditional market towns and argues for a constructive planning approach more on the lines found on the Continent and in the US.

"The High Street of Tomorrow: copies available from Tesco, Tesco House, PO Box 18, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 9SL.

MERCURY INTERNATIONAL GROUP plc

Mercury International Group has been formed to bring together the businesses of S.G. Warburg & Co., Akroyd & Smithers, Rowe & Pitman and Mullens & Co.

The merger of our four firms into a single group is designed to meet the requirements of our U.K. and international clients in the new market conditions. The new group will engage in merchant banking, securities distribution, trading and research and in asset management.

It is expected that The Stock Exchange will allow dual capacity trading to begin on 27th October 1986. We will then be able to operate as an integrated firm in the UK. However, in international markets we are already working together and starting to reap the benefits of the merger.

We will be in a position to back our advice to corporate and institutional clients with the capacity to mobilise our own expertise and capital in issuing, distributing and trading in a broad range of securities.

We have formed our group to provide our clients with wider and better services and to provide our shareholders with a broadly-based investment in today's rapidly developing international financial markets.

S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Akroyd & Smithers P.L.C.

Rowe & Pitman, Mullens & Co. Ltd.

S.G. Warburg, Rowe & Pitman, Akroyd Ltd. (Rowak)

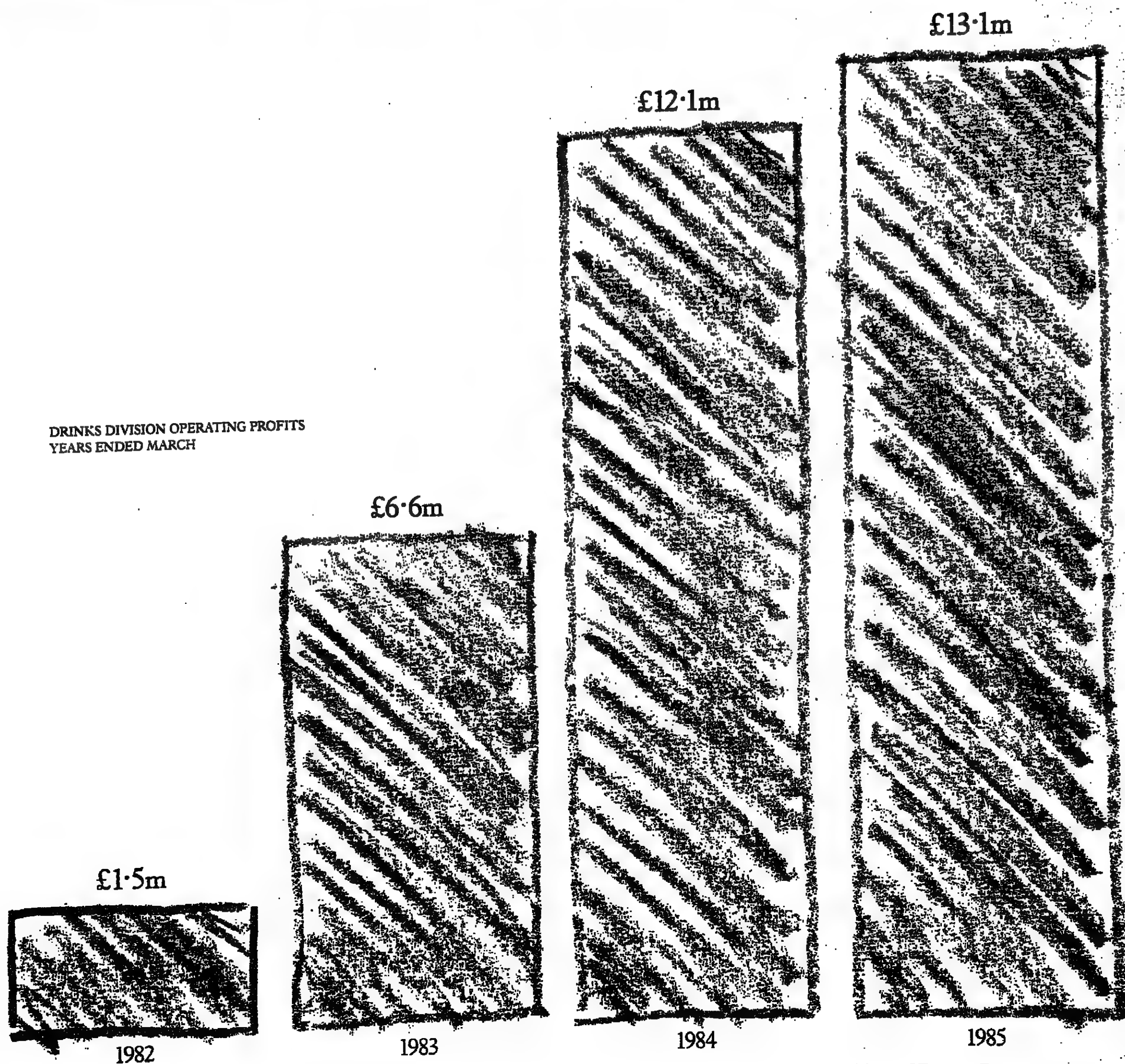
Mercury Asset Management Ltd.

London, New York, Tokyo, Geneva, Zurich,

Boston, San Francisco, Johannesburg, Jersey,

Hong Kong, Melbourne, Sydney

A rather impressive bar chart from our drinks division.



Argyll has managed ADP since August 1979. Since then, we have built a business which, with the acquisition of Barton Brands in the US, has grown from minimal profits to £13.1 million in 1985.

Argyll Group PLC.

مكتبة من الكتب

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have a surplus or a share of the total daily price money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	S & U Stores	Draperies & Suits	
2	Ferguson Ind	Paper, Print, Ad	
3	Whitbread 'A'	Breweries	
4	Hillend Hides	Foods	
5	Brent Chem	Chem/Plastics	
6	Stone Int	Electronics	
7	Ferranti	Electronics	
8	Fisher (James)	Shipping	
9	Morrison (W)	Foods	
10	Enth	Building & Rds	
11	Casings	Industrials A-D	
12	Asse Fabrics	Foods	
13	Group Lotus	Misc & Amtr	
14	Time Products	Draperies & Suits	
15	Plenco	Electronics	
16	Casings (W)	Chem/Plastics	
17	Barnes Hepburn	Industrials A-D	
18	Guinness	Breweries	
19	Yorkshire Chem	Chem/Plastics	
20	Atlantic Resources	Oil	
21	Warrington (T)	Building & Rds	
22	Granpian	Cinemas, TV	
23	Esparint Int	Industrials E-K	
24	Underwoods	Draperies & Suits	
25	Rush & Tomkins	Property	
26	Murray Elect	Electronics	
27	Carless Capel	Oil	
28	Reed Int	Industrials L-R	
29	Samuel (H)	Draperies & Suits	
30	Oliver Paper	Paper, Print, Ad	
31	Wasson & Philip	Foods	
32	Sharpe & Fisher	Building & Rds	
33	IMI	Industrials E-K	
34	Dom	Industrials A-D	
35	Card (A) & Sons	Property	
36	Shorrock	Electronics	
37	Sts Hundred	Industrials S-Z	
38	Johnson Manthorpe	Industrials E-K	
39	Auto Sec	Electronics	
40	Marshall Univ	Industrials L-R	
41	Invergon Dist	Breweries	
42	Vitrolplant	Building & Rds	
43	Crown House	Industrials A-D	
44	Park Place	Industrials L-R	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock up on the stock market. Prices on the stock market are shown in the following table.

Stock	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Stock	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

UNDATED

Stock	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

INDEX LINKED

Stock	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Stock	Price	Change	Open	Close
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end April 25. Contango day April 28. Settlement day May 5.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization	Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	Yield	P/E
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Portfolio Gold
DAILY DIVIDEND
£6.000
Claims required for
+27 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	Yield	P/E
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	Yield	P/E
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	Yield	P/E
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	Yield	P/E
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

SHIPPING

Company	Price	Change	Open	Close	Div	Yield	P/E
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
1000 Shares	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1

Woolworth chief shows his style

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

If the big takeover bid battles seem inevitably to become clashes of key personalities then Woolworth, now in the sights of Stanley Kalms of Dixons, has a problem.

It has no Halpern or Conran figure to field as a mega-retailing personality. Mr Kalms, resting on his profits record and his concept of "retail engineering", has been scornful of Woolworth management skills in retailing.

Things might now be changing as the temperature of this battle rises further, and until now the man in the van of the Woolworth counter-charge may have seemed an unlikely choice as chief protagonist.

Geoffrey Mulcahy (pronounced Mullahy), aged 43, the new chief executive of Woolworth, has been variously described as somewhat shy, rather unassuming and laid back.

His chairman, on a part-time basis, is Sir Kenneth Durham who in May steps down as executive chairman of Unilever, one of the world's largest consumer goods companies.

These new appointments follow the retirement of John Beckett who has led the three-and-a-quarter-year attempt to wake up the Woolworth sleeping giant.

There is more to the new chief executive than has been seen so far. Some colleagues enthuse over his having one of the quickest brains in British industry.



Geoffrey Mulcahy: "Everybody asked why I was going into Mission Impossible."

Certainly he is a man accustomed to dealing with big companies and relishes those faced with change. He says: "When I came over to Woolworth everybody asked why I was going into Mission Impossible. And he grins.

He describes his career as "managed change". He was born in Sunderland, the son of a civil engineer, left Manchester University with a degree in chemistry and physics and while with Esso emerged from two years at Harvard as an MBA (Master of Business Administration).

Then he was financial director of the US multinational Norton Abrasives' European division and in 1977 was recruited to British Sugar by Mr Beckett as financial director. He went over to Woolworth in 1984 and became group managing director.

At the weekend Mr Mulcahy made a determined dash out of his shell in an interview with *The Times*.

He compared what he described as the complexity of Woolworth with Dixons: "We have over 14 million square feet of selling space while he has 1.5 million."

He said: "Mr Kalms does not have much in the way of outlets out of or edge of town. What we are talking about is running a very large business."

But what of Mr Kalms' strictures on lack of retailing experience at the top of Woolworth? Mr Mulcahy said: "I've been doing some arithmetic. On our several boards

there are 450 years of retailing experience. On the Holdings main board there is 150 years' worth."

He had in mind main board members such as Mr Peter Firmston-Williams, who made his reputation as head of Asda, the superstores chain, and who is a non-executive director; Mr Michael Hollingbery, the Comet chairman; and the two joint managing directors of the main high street Woolworth chain, Mr Colin Brown, formerly of Littlewoods Stores and Makro and Mr Richard Barker, ex-Asda.

There had been considerable management recruitment from outside with about 40 new faces in marketing, buying and merchandising among other sections. Two-thirds of the management of the high street chain was new, he said.

"We have the key team in place and it will continue to be strengthened as necessary," he said.

Mr Mulcahy claimed that while the high street chain has been the problem there were now improvements showing through. The main focus over the past three years has been, to improve margins in the high street stores which was why food and adult clothing were being phased out. The

profit turnaround last year arose mainly from improved profit in key departments rather than good housekeeping and efficiency measures.

In six sectors on which the chain will now concentrate, sales a square foot over the past two years had increased by some 55 per cent, while gross profit was up by 49 per cent, he said.

The six target areas were items for children including clothing and toys; gifts and sweets; entertainment including records, cassettes and video tapes; home and garden; table and kitchenware; and personal care products.

The targeting on these key areas has been named Operation Focus. Mr Kalms has said that Dixons would transform Woolworth into an exciting and coherent chain of home, entertainment and leisure stores, but without areas like children's clothing, stationery and cosmetics. Mr Mulcahy said this seemed to be "an Operation Focus lookalike with some exceptions".

Woolworth would continue its evolutionary approach.

His last word on Mr Kalms: "He clearly sees the potential, as we do. The market he is operating in has definite limitations. He would have to be growing at a tremendously high rate to justify the Dixons level of price-earnings ratio. Plainly he needs us more than we need him."

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities.

MERCURY INTERNATIONAL GROUP plc

(Incorporated and registered in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 No. 1874486)

Share capital of Mercury International Group plc

Authorised	Issued and to be issued fully paid
90,000,000	60,457,655
43,000,000	41,777,954
18,000,000	16,076,400
200,000	199,516
5,000,000	4,474,059
100,000,000	—

Assuming full acceptance of the offer dated 3rd March 1986 for the shares of Mercury Securities plc. The number of Preference Shares to be issued, the basis of allocation and the rate of dividend have not yet been determined, but are expected to be announced in July 1986.

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted the Ordinary Shares and 'A' Convertible Preference Shares of Mercury International Group plc issued and to be issued to the Official List.

Listing Particulars relating to Mercury International Group plc and the issue of Ordinary Shares and 'A' Convertible Preference Shares are available from Exel Statistical Services Limited. Copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours until 16th April 1986 from the Companies Announcement Office, The Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, London EC2P 2BT and on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 28th April 1986 from:

Mercury International Group plc,
33 King William Street,
London, EC4R 4AS.

Rose & Pitman Ltd.,
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London, EC2M 2PA.

Cazenove & Co.,
12 Trillickhouse Yard,
London, EC2R 7AN.

14th April 1986

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Aden & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Citibank Savings	11.95%
Consolidated Credit	11.00%
Continental Trust	11.50%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co.	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCKS LISTED BELOW ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCKS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON MONDAY, 14TH APRIL 1986.

ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 11th April 1986, and has issued to the Bank, additional amounts as indicated of each of the Stocks listed below:

£100 million	23 per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1990
£100 million	98 per cent CONVERSION STOCK, 2001
£100 million	98 per cent TREASURY LOAN, 2012-2015
£100 million	23 per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2016

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market closing price of the relevant Stock on 11th April 1986 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 11th April 1986 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock, ranking in all respects *pari passu* with that Stock and subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that Stock, and subject also to the provision contained in the final paragraph of this notice; the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Copies of the prospectuses for 23 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1990 dated 17th January 1986, 101 per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1987 dated 27th May 1983 which contained the terms of issue of 98 per cent Conversion Stock, 2001, 73 per cent Treasury Loan, 2012-2015 dated 21st January 1972 and 23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 dated 14th January 1983 may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

The Stocks are repayable, and interest is payable half-yearly, on the dates shown below (in the case of 23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 provision is made in the prospectus for stockholders to be offered the right of early redemption under certain circumstances):

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment date
23 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1990	22nd November 1990	22nd May
98 per cent Conversion Stock, 2001	10th August 2001	22nd November
73 per cent Treasury Loan, 2012-2015	26th January 2015, or on or after any time after 26th January 2012 subject to not less than three months' notice	10th February
23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016	26th July 2016	26th January

23 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1990; 98 per cent Conversion Stock, 2001 and 73 per cent Treasury Loan, 2012-2015 are repayable at par.

Both the principal of and the interest on 23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 are indexed to the General Index of Retail Prices. The index figure relevant to any month is that published seven months previously and relating to the month before the month of publication. The index figure relevant to the month of issue of 23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 is that relating to May 1982 (322.0). The relevant index figure will be used for the purposes of calculating payments of principal and interest due in respect of the further tranche of Stock.

The relevant index figures for the half-yearly interest payments on 23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 are as follows:

Interest payable	Published in	Relevant index figure	Relating to
January	June of the previous year	December of the previous year	May
July	December of the previous year	December of the previous year	November

The further tranche of 23 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1990 will rank for the interest payment of £0.8220 per cent to be made on 22nd May 1986. The further tranches of 98 per cent Conversion Stock, 2001, 73 per cent Treasury Loan, 2012-2015 and 23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant Stock.

23 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1990 will be specified, and 98 per cent Conversion Stock, 2001, 73 per cent Treasury Loan, 2012-2015 and 23 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 are specified, under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 as gilt-edged securities (under current legislation exempt from tax on capital gains on disposals made on or after 2nd July 1986, irrespective of the period for which the Stocks are held).

Government statement
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 28th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, these further tranches of stock are issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
11th April 1986

Kleinwort Benson and Grieveson Grant: the second smartest wedding of 1986.

In July, there won't be a dry eye in Westminster. But today, in the City of London, there's a marriage of a more commercial kind that's well worth your attention.

Kleinwort Benson is tying the knot with Grieveson Grant. The main purpose of the union, of course, is to take full advantage of market deregulation, which comes into full effect in October.

Kleinwort Benson is, in terms of capital and assets, London's largest international Merchant Bank.

In the field of corporate finance alone, Kleinwort Benson was responsible for over a third of the £2.8 billion of equity new issues in the London market last year; far more than any other firm.

The 'other half', Grieveson Grant, is one of the City's top stock-brokers with a widely regarded domestic and international investment research capability. Most City institutions already deal with Grievesons.

Kleinwort Benson will still provide the Group's existing merchant banking activities.

Grieveson Grant, under its new name Kleinwort Grieveson, will, as Members of the Stock Exchange, continue to provide stockbroking services to clients and will make markets in London in a broad range of UK stocks as soon as the rules allow.

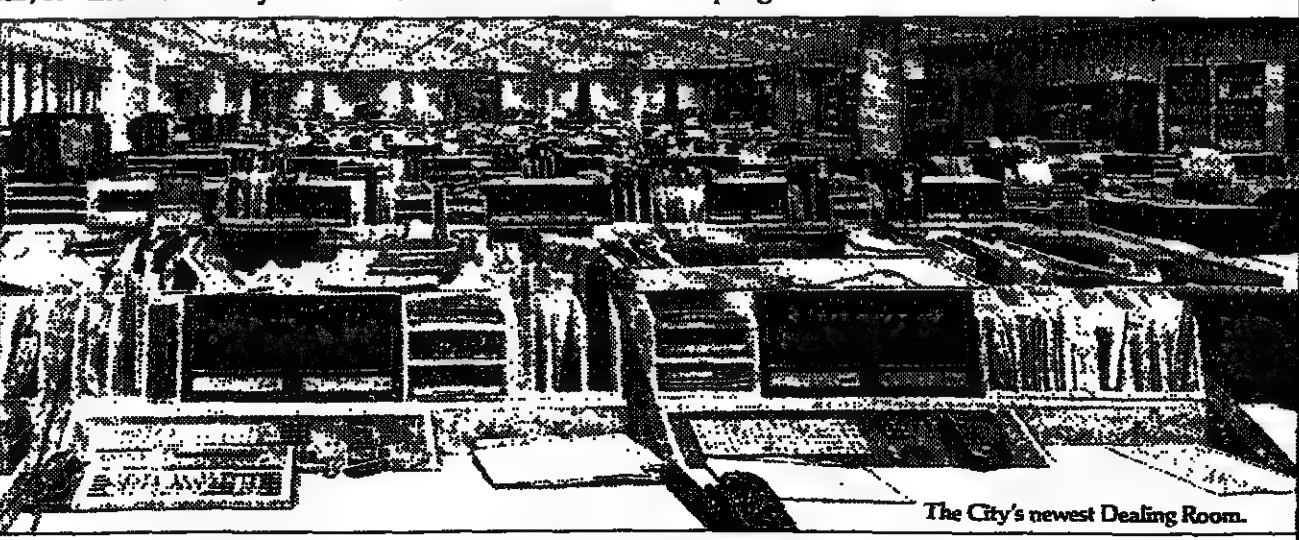
It already does so in overseas equities, to complement activities in New York and Tokyo. Its close relation, Kleinwort Charlesworth, operates as a gilt-edged market maker in London.

After Big Bang, a separate subsidiary, Kleinwort Grieveson Investment Management, will bring together all areas of investment management, private and institutional, at home and overseas. It will constitute one of the largest asset management houses in the City.

Kleinwort Benson has long had a major presence around the world: in the USA, Europe, Australia and the Far East.

In its dowry, Grieveson Grant brings additional operations in Boston, Hong Kong and Tokyo. (Kleinworts and Grievesons have already been working together in Tokyo since May 1985).

To house the new operations in London, we've undertaken a massive modernisation programme at 20 Fenchurch Street,



The City's newest Dealing Room.

and we've taken an additional 54,000 square feet next door.

Such plans may lead you to conclude that we intend our union to be a fruitful one. And you'll be absolutely right.

Kleinwort Benson

The International Merchant Bank

KLEINWORT GRIEVESON AND CO, Members of The Stock Exchange, 20 FENCHURCH STREET, LONDON EC3P 3DB. TEL: 01-623 8000.

Special bonds for job creation urged

By Our Financial Editor

The Government should create a new class of low-cost "employment bond" for private lending to businesses creating jobs on long-term projects, a new Bow Group paper urges.

The bonds would cost less because lenders would not have to pay income tax on the interest and the finance could be used to fund private sector projects whose long-term payback period is penalized by current high interest rates.

The authors of the paper, Redland executives Mr Gareth Jones and Mr David Soskin, argue that a clause to allow the creation of the bonds could be inserted in the 1986 Finance Bill.

An employment bond would be issued by a United Kingdom company to raise capital for a specific project and, to qualify for authorization by the Inland Revenue, would have to create at least one permanent job for every £50,000 raised by way of the bond.

The authors suggest it should be limited to £10 million per project. The bonds would be financed by private investors through clearing banks, which would market them, sell them through their branch networks and provide a guarantee.

The paper suggests that the bonds could create jobs at minimal cost to the Exchequer, since the Government would bear only the cost of tax relief on the lower interest coupons.

"The USA has already proven the efficiency of the employment bond," Mr Jones and Mr Soskin claim.

"The Congressional Budget Office concludes that the concept has added 4.5 per cent to United States gross domestic product over the last five years; in Massachusetts for example, thousands of jobs were created at a cost of only £1,500 per job."

On that basis, it is argued, £1 billion raised via employment bonds would create more than 50,000 permanent new jobs.

Budgetary stimulus 'modest'

By Our Economics Editor

Last month's Budget provided a "modest stimulus to the economy", despite the cut in public borrowing, according to a specialist adviser to the Treasury committee of MPs, Mr Bill Martin of Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

In a memorandum to the committee published today, Mr Martin claims budgetary policy was eased slightly in the Budget, and is likely to be eased further in practice as oil revenues drop and public spending may well exceed planned levels.

The Budget, he argues, was looser than it looked because public borrowing was held down by an increase in receipts from privatization.

The public sector financial deficit, which is not affected by privatization receipts, will rise by about 0.25 per cent of gross domestic product in 1986-87, Mr Martin calculates. "The committee should 'take seriously' the risks of the economy over-heating after the fall in oil prices."

£25m launch for lease company

By Cliff Feltham

If a small workforce is a sign of a company which looks after its costs then Combined Lease Finance has to be among the most cost-efficient of them all.

The company, which is being floated on the stock market next week with a price tag of about £25 million, has only 25 employees.

Backed with cash from the National Coal Board pension funds, CLF started six years ago offering lease finance for the purchase of computers, motor cars, and plant and machinery.

During this time profits have gone up from £30,000 to £1.4 million last year. The cost of equipment hired for leasing has increased from £800,000 to £2.6 million. The company is not making a profit forecast but further significant growth is expected this year judging from first quarter trading.

Mr Tony Barnes, aged 54, the managing director who began with two employees, says each member of staff is responsible for £1.8 million of

business compared with £330,000 for the rest of the finance industry.

To help him get started the Coal Board pension funds — whose investment chief, Mr David Prosser, is chairman of CLF — put up £5,000 and a £3 million line of credit for a two-thirds stake in the venture.

That holding, reduced to 30 per cent after a share placing last year which brought in 21 financial institutions, will be worth about £8 million following the offer for sale by bankers N M Rothschild.

Mr Barnes says the flotation, to raise about £4.5 million, will help finance moves into other services. He is keen to expand a leasing business for the microcomputer industry which offers a unique maintenance package to users and has profits of £400,000 a year.

Much of the group's business is for short periods of three years or less which has the advantage of reducing the credit risk as the capital investment is repaid more quickly.

Building societies set for further mergers

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mergers have never come easily among building societies, even though the past 20 years has seen annual declines in their numbers of up to a tenth.

In 1960 there were 726 members of the Building Societies Association. There are now 137, a reduction of more than four-fifths.

Most of the disappearing societies were comparatively small, and they threw in the towel to join bigger societies. Even here it has usually depended on two sets of managers seeing their way to a deal, rather than members being the arbiters.

New legislation could soon swing the pendulum. With some provisos, a society bent on takeover could appeal to another society's members over the heads of its managers.

Since the apathy of society members has become almost legendary, the power could, nevertheless, still remain with the managers.

But if managers hang on to their independence as long as they can, the pressures of the market place are moving entirely in the opposite direction. More and expensive services for customers, the mounting competition with the banks, the increasing sophistication of computer and other systems, are all adding to the drain on building society costs and resources, favouring the big and stronger societies.

Not only is the rate at which small societies seek the safety of a bigger brother likely to rise, but mergers of much bigger societies seem on the cards.

The two big merger plans of last year illuminate the key factors at work. The one that foundered was the proposed merger of Nationwide and the Woolwich, planned for this year, which would have created a society with assets of £15 billion. This would have

lodged it firmly in third place behind the Halifax and Abbey National.

It was said at the time that the main reason for the merger was to create a society better able to take advantage of new powers coming to societies under legislation due in 1987. The move into new areas of business demanded sheer size and financial strength, it was argued.

It was apparent by November that there were signs of a cultural clash between the two societies. The Woolwich broke off the talks, citing practical problems. There was a computer system incompatibility, salary scales were different and, while Nationwide gave its branches considerable autonomy, the Woolwich tended to keep decision-making at head office level.

There could only be speculation as to whether Nationwide, the more powerful society, proved too frightening a partner. The original logic for the marriage — being big is the best means of survival — seemed hardly to have been overturned.

There was also the merger of two big societies which came off, and that has also carried its lessons for future development of the building society movement.

The Alliance and Leicester societies came together in October after delays as staff associations worried about redundancy and other questions. The Alliance and Leicester became the fourth biggest society with assets of more than £6 billion.

It was a mega-merger on the lines of that between the Halifax Permanent and Halifax Equitable in 1928 — which created the Halifax Building Society, still the world's biggest.

The society formed by the Alliance and Leicester had about two million investors,

about 400,000 borrowers and just over 450 branches. Only about 45 branches were expected to be closed through duplication as the geographical spread of the two societies was complementary. A "no job losses" commitment overall had satisfied the staff associations.

But the competitive stance of the new society was clearly enhanced. It was more ready to leap on the opportunities presented by new legislation. It expected to be able to make far greater use of advanced technology.

The pair also happened to have the same Burroughs computer system, so no technology problem intruded.

Both had a similar commitment to innovation. Leicester had brought in the Leicestershire, which gives access to cash and entitles holders to retail discounts. Alliance had interest-bearing cheque accounts in a link with the Bank of Scotland.

The combined group's free reserves of capital that could be called on quickly was around £160 million, but the group was also in a position to step up its raising of money directly in the City's money markets.

A real gain could be in the effectiveness of national advertising, which all the big building societies have been pursuing as a promotional tool. Those with a near-national spread gain most from this sort of promotion. Another underscoring of the lesson that big means best.

The five biggest societies account for about 55 per cent of all members, but Mr Peter Birch, Abbey National's chief executive, has forecast that by mid-1990 some 80 per cent of all assets will be in the hands of five "mega-societies."

These will co-exist with no more than 20 to 30 small but well-run regional and local societies.

© FREDERICK COOPER: The disposal of the assets of Cooper Horse Shoe Nail will reduce borrowings by £1.7 million. At current interest rates, annual savings will be £208,000. Other actions taken to cut working capital and costs will have a further significant effect in coming months.

© VINTEN GROUP: The company intends to close the Petivale, West London, facilities where Vinten Avionic Systems and Vinten Circuit Engineering are located, over the next four months. Work on Vinten Avionic contracts will be carried out at the Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, factory, while Vinten Circuit's activities will cease.

© SENIOR ENGINEERING: A subsidiary, Senior Green, has purchased the assets of G W B Industrial Boilers, M and W Grazebrook and Cradley Boiler from the receivers, together with the research and development

business from G W B Energy Developments, for £1.2 million cash.

© PHOTAX (LONDON): No dividend (same) for 1985. Turnover £5.93 million (£6.28 million). Profit before tax and extraordinary items £110,000 (£30,000). Earnings per share 0.8p (less 2.4p).

© TRUSTHOUSE FORTE: The company is to issue, at 100% per cent, \$75 million (£51 million) of 8 1/4 per cent notes, due 1991. The net proceeds, estimated at about \$73.6 million, will be used to reduce indebtedness.

© IRISH AEROSPACE: This aircraft leasing company, which is jointly owned by GPA Group and McDonnell Douglas, has arranged a \$225 million (£152 million) 12-year credit facility. It will be used to finance 1A's first 12 McDonnell Douglas MD-63 aircraft, to be delivered over the next year.

COMPANY NEWS

© SQUIRREL HORN: Dividend of 1 pence (nil) for 1985, payable on May 30. Turnover £6.63 million (£6.18 million). Pretax loss £1.40 (£284). Loss per share 2.56p (5.85p).

© LYNTON HOLDINGS: The company has acquired the Co-operative Insurance Society's 30 per cent interest in Central Land Investments (Properties) for 936,590 ordinary shares in Lynton. Central has a portfolio of five freehold properties.

© GRAIG SHIPPING: Petrofina (UK) is to take a 75 per cent in Graig Exploration, with the company retaining 25 per cent. Petrofina will subscribe £3.06 million for new shares in Graig Exploration and will purchase existing shares in it for £293,000. Graig Exploration will repay to Graig Shipping an inter-company loan of £860,000.

© CONDER GROUP: Total dividend for 1985 raised to

1.75p (1.5p). Turnover £123.19 million (£110.14 million). Pretax profit £502,000 (£363,000).

The board warns that Conder has still not succeeded in eliminating all the losses which continue to drain away profits and that this will affect the results for the first half of this year. However, it expects a marked improvement in the second half.

© EASTERN PRODUCE: Total dividend for 1985 unchanged at 10p. Turnover £39.45 million (£55.67 million). Pretax profit £8.93 million (£21.8 million). Earnings per share 40.4p (97.8p).

© PILKINGTON BROTHERS: The group is to raise \$150 million (£101 million) through Pilkington Holdings (Delaware) by a note issue facility arranged by J Henry Schroder Wagg. The proceeds will be used for general purposes.

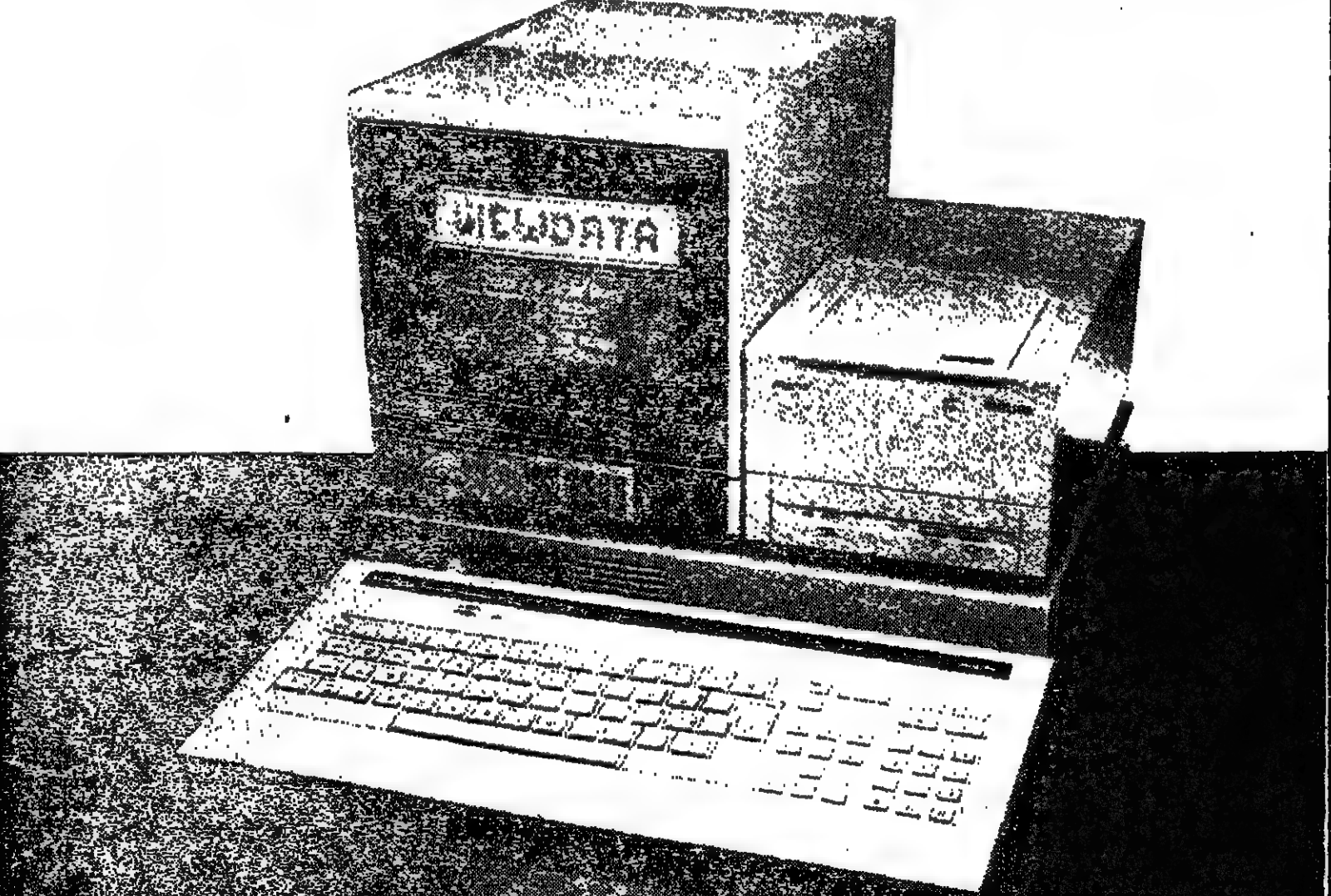
© ULSTER TELEVISION: Half-year to Jan. 31, 1986. Interim dividend 2.9p (2.5p). Turnover £9.73 million (£8.05 million). Pretax profit £1.03 million (£946,000). Earnings per share 13.59p (12.23p).

© EQUITY FINANCE TRUST: The company is to merge with the New York Group. This will be effected by the acquisition of York Trust for £2.85 million, to be satisfied by the issue of 10.2 million ordinary (restricted voting) shares.

© PRIEST, MARIANS HOLDINGS: Contracts have been exchanged to acquire the freehold of 11 and 13 Grape Street, London WC2, for £610,000 cash. The acquisition is conditional on shareholders' approval.

© SEDGWICK GROUP: The group's North American retail operating unit, Fred S James, has successfully ended merger talks with Bayly, Martin and Fay International.

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Law Report April 14 1986 Divisional Court

Counsel can accept service

Penman v Parker
Before Lord Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice Schiemann
[Judgment given April 11]

In cases where for the purposes of section 10 of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted in Schedule 8 of the Transport Act 1981, valid service on a defendant could be effected through his authorized representative, counsel might in certain circumstances accept service on behalf of his client, although his authority to do so was not as general as that of a solicitor and he would be perfectly entitled to decline to accept service on behalf of his client.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by the prosecutor by way of case stated against the decision of the Uxbridge Justices on May 16, 1985 to dismiss a charge against the respondent, Peter Reginald Parker of driving a motor vehicle on January 6, 1985 with excess alcohol in his blood contrary to section 6(1) of the 1972 Act on the ground that he had not been properly served with a copy of a certificate signed by an authorized analyst showing the proportion of alcohol found in the specimen of blood provided by the respondent together with a copy of a certificate signed by a medical

practitioner relating to the taking of the specimen.

Mr David Waters for the appellant, Mr Nicholas Wilcox for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL, giving the judgment of the court, said that it had been found as a fact by the justices that at the first of three hearings before the magistrates, when the hearing had been adjourned to a later date, the police sergeant on duty at the court had served the certificate on counsel for the applicant, Mr Nicholas Wilcox, the respondent and his solicitor having already left the court.

A series of cases, the latest and most relevant of which was *Anderson v Kinnard* (The Times February 13, 1985; 1986 RTR 11), clearly established that for the purposes of section 10(5) of the 1972 Act as substituted, service of such documents need not be on the accused himself but could be validly effected on someone who could be held to be his authorized agent.

The question before the court was whether service on counsel could be considered valid service.

As a generality it seemed that counsel did not have an all-embracing authority to accept service, but in a case such as the present he could be regarded, having been entrusted with the

conduct of the case, to have a discretion to accept service of documents, although he was not bound to do so and would be entitled to decline to accept service.

In the present instance Mr Wilcox was in fact the only person connected with the case remaining in court and could be regarded as having an implied authority to do so.

To the question laid before the court, namely whether in the light of *Anderson v Kinnard* the justices had been correct in law in deciding that the provisions of section 10(5) had not been complied with when a copy of a certificate signed by an authorized analyst as to the proportion of alcohol found in the specimen of blood provided by the respondent and a copy of the certificate signed by a medical practitioner relating to the taking of the specimen had been served on counsel representing the respondent and not on the respondent personally or his solicitor not less than seven days before the hearing, the answer was "No".

In view of the length of time that had transpired the matter was not remitted to the justices. Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police; Tony Foss & Co, Uxbridge.



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Peter Engstrom

The Stock Exchange Building
London EC2N 1EY
Telephone: 01-588 6666 Telex: 8811604

14th April 1986

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April 14, 1986

THE TIMES

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT ON
BUILDING SOCIETIES/1

27

The money managers you can bank on

These are stirring times for building society managers. Since their rise in the 19th century, building societies have never had so many opportunities before them to face such fierce competition in their traditional field of business.

During the past 15 years the astonishing success of the societies at exploiting their position as providers of, literally, a home service both to savers and home buyers has forced them into combat with the big banks and brought them to the brink of a wider role than they ever dreamed of in the past as providers of general financial services.

The biggest single event on their horizon is the new legislation planned by the Government which will allow the societies into areas such as unsecured lending, property development, estate agencies, wider insurance broking and even selling securities.

The Building Societies Bill is rightly described by the Government as the most sweeping reform of the restrictive legislation that has controlled societies' activities for 100 years. Now entering the report and third reading stage in the House of Commons it is due to come into force on January 1 next year.

The Bill stems partly from the Government's policy of kets. In this sense it is part and parcel of the wider revolution taking place in the City of London. Throughout the financial sector, from banking to insurance to the stock market, traditional barriers are dissolving and institutions are being forced to broaden their services to keep up with the competition.

In theory, at least, the more competition there is the more the consumer benefits from better services and lower charges.

The Bill is also the result of the building societies' success. With about three-quarters of the £121 billion mortgages outstanding, the societies' assets are huge. But it is their success in attracting the deposits of small investors that has been most marked.

They now account for slightly more than half of the total £193 billion pool of the retail deposit market and hold a special place in the hearts of the public. Societies are regarded as solid, reliable and friendly and are able to attract the custom of people who would never consider opening a bank account.

With such resources and such a client base it was inevitable that the societies should have started to look beyond the narrow confines of their legal functions. The new legislation will still limit them

encouraging greater competition in financial services market to doing 90 per cent of their business in the traditional way and there is little likelihood that societies will ever go as far as banks in becoming retail financial conglomerates — unless they take the new option of converting to company status and freeing themselves from building society legislation altogether.

Yet they would still have the power to make hundreds of millions of pounds worth of, for example, unsecured loans as soon as the new legislation goes through — enough to pose a serious competitive threat to the banks.

It is the banks that have already suffered most at the hands of the societies, losing large chunks of their traditional low cost retail deposits. About two years ago they woke up to the situation and with remarkable speed have moved to face the challenge head on.

At a time when the societies were beginning to compete more among themselves for deposits the banks joined in aggressively helping to push up the rates of interest offered for savings accounts. This caused a swift outflow of funds from the traditional low interest ordinary share accounts of building societies into new high interest accounts. Within months the proportion of deposits in ordinary share accounts dropped from more than 70 per cent to less than 30 per cent.

In a more recent development, the banks have now started challenging the societies more aggressively in the mortgage market. The banks first entered the field in 1978 but seemed uncommitted for a long time. But during the past few weeks their commitment to mortgage lending can hardly be doubted. They led the way in abolishing the differential traditionally charged on endowment linked loans above the ordinary repayment loan rate, and the big building societies were forced to follow.

Barclays Bank last week became the first institution to cut its home loan rate in the current round of interest rate reductions — the first time a bank has led the societies in moving its mortgage rate.

These developments — both the new opportunities in the Bill and the greater competition in the lending and deposit market — pose serious problems for the societies. One is the problem of costs.

The societies have, with a few exceptions, won their position in the market place through an impressive network of branch offices. These were expensive to maintain, but as long as business was not too competitive and margins

were still fat, the cost could be borne. That is no longer the case and most societies are now making strenuous efforts to cut their expenses. The Cheltenham and Gloucester has been among the most successful in this, bringing its costs down towards 70p per £100 of deposits.

But the industry average is still well over £1 per £100 of deposits and the societies have no other areas of business, as banks do, from which they can cross-subsidize their costs if necessary.

This has provided much of the impetus for societies to move towards other types of business, such as wider insurance broking, which earn healthy commission fees to add to the bread and butter business of mortgage lending. The more services a society can offer from each branch the more economical its expensive branch network will be.

That is probably an easier choice than a painful pruning of branch networks. The societies have almost uniformly refused to do this so far, although the rate of branch growth has virtually halted.

This also partly explains their enthusiasm for gathering funds from the wholesale money markets which began last year and has already led them to borrow a gross £30 billion from that source. They were able to do this by a relaxation in the law which now allows them to pay interest to foreign investors gross of tax, making it possible to market bonds of various types.

The favourite vehicle quickly became the short-dated Floating Rate Note. Its interest varies roughly in line with the mortgage rate and with a maturity of between five and 10 years it can be made to match fairly precisely the life of the mortgages being lent out by the society.

Since societies are rated as high quality borrowers by the markets they are able to raise money at fine rates. The process of raising the money is also considerably cheaper than collecting large numbers of small deposits through the branch network.

The attractions of wholesale funding are obvious and some of the instruments being used by societies, such as interest rate swaps, are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

But increasing sophistication brings its problems. Towards the end of last year Michael Bridgeman, the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies who supervises the industry, uttered dark warnings about societies being financially



sound enough to enter new areas of business. His worry was that the capital ratios of most societies would not be strong enough to support their new plans.

There are two ways societies can approach this challenge. One is to try to find a way of, in effect, raising equity capital. As mutual societies this is not easy and may even prove impossible. Mr Bridgeman is expected to publish guidelines of capital ratios soon which may open the way to some form of capital raising akin to the perpetual FRNs issued by the clearing banks and treated as capital by the Bank of England.

A more radical extension of this would be full conversion into a public company, allowing the society to raise money on the stock market. Here again, the consultative

paper so far published on incorporation makes this process so tortuous as to be virtually impossible. Unless its proposals are altered by the time it finds its way into the Bill, incorporation is not likely to be much of a solution.

The only way so far open to the societies to boost their capital ratios, therefore, is to grow them internally. This involves a change in traditional building society thinking that has usually paid most heed to the idea of expanding assets and branches and pulling a society up the league table of size. Instead managers are having to concentrate

more on earnings, on margins, and on profits.

But it is probably only the biggest societies that this seriously affects. They will be the ones which, at the risk of losing their friendly high street image, will attempt to be most things to most men. The small societies are unlikely to have the expertise, desire or financial muscle to do anything much more than their traditional mortgage business. They will build on their local knowledge and the loyalty of their local customers. It is early to say, but the chances

are that they will be able to hold their own in the new environment this way.

In between the giants and the tiddlers, however, come a large block of medium sized societies whose position is beginning to look precarious. They do

not have the national reach and financial strength to make the most of the new legislation.

There can be little doubt that the pace of change is accelerating. But do building society managers have the expertise to manage it without making fatal mistakes? In some areas the answer is almost certainly yes. Societies have been acting as life assurance brokers for years, for example. In other areas the answer is not so clear.

But evolution is likely to prove the key to building society expansion,

Richard Thomson

Home sweet home loans but much more to come

The Building Societies Bill which has recently passed through the committee stage of the House of Commons has been eagerly awaited by the building society industry and particularly by the larger societies which stand to benefit most from its liberalizing provisions.

When the Bill was first published in December it was described by Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary at the Treasury, as "the most important legislation on building societies for more than a century".

But it contained only a few surprises for the societies. They had seen or heard almost all of its major provisions before, either in substance or in spirit in the Government's Green Paper, entitled Building Societies — A New Framework, and in two subsequent speeches by Mr Stewart.

The tenor of both the Bill and the Green Paper is that building societies should retain their primary purpose as solid, established providers of home loans, or loans for residential purposes. At the same time, however, there should be some liberalization

of societies' powers which would enable them to compete with other financial institutions, notably but not exclusively the clearing banks.

Larger societies such as the Abbey National were concerned that the Bill did not liberalize societies enough, and in particular that provisions relating to the amount of non-traditional business a society could carry on were too restrictive.

The larger players also made noises about the difficult path a society would have to follow in order to convert to a limited company. Conversion provisions were included in the Bill, but the Government also issued a consultative paper on the subject at the same time as the Bill.

As concerns the lending activities of a society the Bill divides the type of loans which a society can undertake into three categories. Class 1 assets, which must represent a minimum of 90 per cent of a society's lending, must be advances for first mortgages to owner occupiers.

Class 2 assets cover matters such as equity mortgages, second mortgages or secured

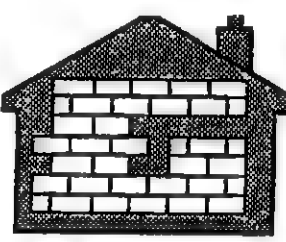
lending to individuals that is not for residential use. Under the terms of the Bill this category of lending must not exceed 10 per cent of a society's lending.

The final category — Class 3 assets — is largely restricted to those societies whose aggregate commercial assets exceed £100 million. It encompasses unsecured loans to individuals, up to a limit of £5,000 per individual and investment by a society to acquire and develop land for residential purposes.

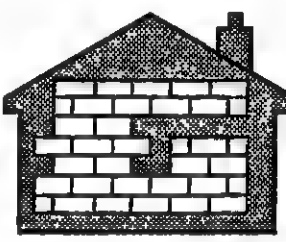
All societies, however, are within the Class 3 category, empowered to set up subsidiary companies to operate in fields such as estate agency or mortgage broking.

At first sight this appears to give societies considerable freedom. But Class 3 assets, are limited in the Bill to 5 per cent of total lending. More-

Continued on page 28



Most societies are now making strenuous efforts to cut costs



A headlong rush into new ventures could bring trouble

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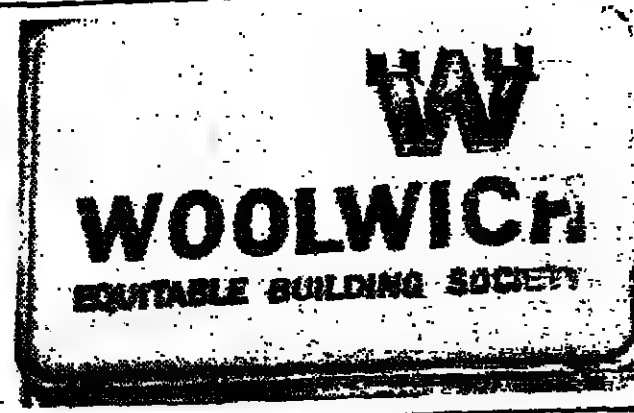
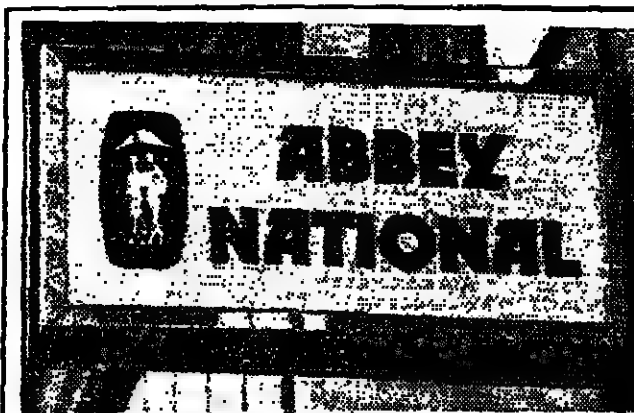
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BUILDING SOCIETIES/2

FOCUS



Home sweet home loans

Continued from page 27

over, the Bill stipulates that Class 2 and 3 assets together must not exceed 10 per cent of lending.

It was not even these low ceilings placed upon non-traditional activities that concerned the larger societies. They were prepared to accept that initial low limits were perhaps inevitable given that these were uncharted territories for building societies.

But what did concern the large players were the provisions in the Bill which allowed the Government to increase the lending ceilings by statutory instrument rather than by another building societies Bill. With regard to conversion to company status - which a number of the larger societies see as the best route to a position which is fully competitive with other financial institutions - the current proposals make this route as arduous, if not impassable one.

In the consultative paper on conversion the Government said that safeguards were necessary and that the procedures for conversion should not be "set up in such a way as to encourage conversions to take place for the wrong reasons".

If the conversion provisions made the process too easy this could, according to the consul-

tative paper, "precipitate a rash of conversions involving a rapid, disruptive and damaging change to the building society movement, as well as liquidity problems for newly converted companies".

It was easy to imagine a suitable scenario that would give rise to such a situation, and the consultative paper put forward one.

"If an outside institution were able to hold out the prospect of an immediate distribution of shares to members of the society and offer to buy them at a significant premium, that could be highly destabilizing. Members might be tempted by what was in effect a cash bonus rather than consideration of what was in the best long-term interest of their society, secure in the knowledge that they could transfer their money to another building society once the process was complete."

The Government therefore proposed three voting requirements which must be satisfied for a society to convert. A resolution for conversion to a company would have to be approved by 75 per cent of the investors who voted on it and by a majority of the voting members.

But it was the third voting requirement that caused most consternation. This stipulated

that at least 20 per cent of a society's members must vote in favour of the resolution. Several societies said this was an impossibly high percentage.

When the Alliance and Leicester put merger proposals to their members only 10 per cent of them were stirred enough to vote. For the Nationwide Building Society the 20 per cent voting requirement would mean persuading 600,000 people to vote. The Nationwide has never got more than 150,000 of its members to vote on any motion so far.

In the committee stage of the Bill Mr Stewart indicated that government thinking was now along the lines of a threshold of 20 per cent of the total number of eligible voters voting.

But even if the provisions are slightly relaxed the view within the building society industry (if not the Government) is that this will not lead to a tidal wave of conversions. A survey of top executives at 51 of the larger societies, carried out by City Research Associates, revealed that even if the conversion provisions were significantly relaxed "no more than 10 societies will take this route".

Lawrence Lever

Easy access to cash
in the hi-tech age

Building societies are embracing technology more rapidly now than they have ever done in the past two decades as they gear themselves up to compete directly with the banks. The societies have normally been highly conservative in their approach to technology.

Customers liked to have their own paybooks, written by hand and a personal touch at the counter was paramount, claimed the societies. But the legislation which allows the societies to offer a range of financial services as an alternative to the banks has accelerated the process of accepting technology.

The societies were well behind the banks and financial institutions in equipping their tellers with electronics. It is only recently that the customers to building societies have been able to have their paybooks updated immediately by an electronic terminal, remotely connected to a mainframe computer system. Before this move the paybook would need to be submitted to the branch when making a withdrawal and returned to the customer several days later by post. Now they can be updated in real time in the branch.

These terminals and the new systems being devised are meant to ensure that customers have easy access to their money. The societies believe this feature will attract much needed investment.

The mainstay of the electronic building society is the automated teller machine (ATM). Introduced extensively by the UK banks over the last decade they have been extremely successful in relieving the cashiers of much routine work such as withdrawals, statements and cheque book orders and have given customers the opportunity to obtain cash outside banking hours.

The banks were particularly keen on encouraging the technology since the processing of the average cheque now costs about 50p. As an incentive to encourage customer use of ATMs most banks pass on at least part of the cost saving to the customer in the form of reduced service charges.

It is that network of ATMs the building societies wish to match. The building society network will give their customers the same withdrawal and statement facilities as the bank network. The principal building society network is

called MATRIX and has been created by a company called Electronic Funds Transfer, founded under the auspices of the Building Societies Association.

Seven of Britain's top societies are the founding members and between them they have a total of nearly 2,500 branches, 8.1 million investors and £32 billion in assets.

These societies are the Alliance & Leicester, Anglia, Bradford & Bingley, Bristol & West, Leeds Permanent, National & Provincial and the Woolwich Equitable.

More than 200 ATMs started the first phase of MATRIX in February. During the rest of this year more than 400 ATMs will be installed around the country. In the next two to three years the network will grow to more than 1,000 machines.



high street retailers - shops, restaurants and cinemas - to the building societies. The banks have similar plans and pilot networks in progress.

These networks will totally revolutionize shopping and minimize the need to write cheques. All the retailers will have specially designed electronic units at the customer checkout. The customer will present a credit/cash card which will be inserted into the electronic unit.

It, in turn, is connected to the computer of the bank or building society that issued the card by way of a high speed data communications link. The building society/bank computer can validate the use of the card in seconds and the credit/cash limit of the customer. The purchase is made electronically by transferring funds - hence the name - from the customer's bank/building society account to that of the retailer.

The retailers will benefit substantially by the quick transfer of cash, a substantial reduction in the cost of administration/security and quicker service at the checkout. The customer will not need to write cheques and risk paying service charges but will lose the benefit of three days credit as a cheque is cleared. However, purchase with credit cards will become more commonplace which could give the customer up to six weeks free credit.

But MATRIX has a rival called LINK. The Co-operative Bank, National Giro Bank, Abbey National and the Nationwide Building Society have joined forces to form the backbone of the new network.

"Financial giants like Western Trust & Savings and Citibank will join the network along with about 16 small building societies. By the end of next year the partners will have a network able to accommodate more than six million cardholders.

However it is still uncertain what will be the cost of these electronic networks and whether the customer will see any immediate financial benefit since the cost may have to be transferred to the customer. A national electronic fund transfer network linking the high street with the building societies and banks would cost about £350 million.

Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

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FOCUS

BUILDING SOCIETIES/3

High street war for balances of power

The days when the building societies had most of the retail deposit market, and virtually all of the home loan market to themselves have gone for good. Over the last two years the societies have become locked in battle with the banks in both areas.

More recently other competitors, such as insurance companies, have entered the lists too. Their appearance underlines the fact that although this is a battle centred on mortgages and deposits, the real issue at stake extends out into the whole field of financial services for individuals. It is only the centre of the revolution taking place in retail financial services.

During the 1960's and 1970's the building societies quietly but surely went about lapping up the lion's share of the nation's retail deposits. Their friendly, unfussy image appealed to everyone — those with bank accounts and those without. They capitalised on their uncomplicated service and built up huge branch networks to rival the clearing banks' ability to attract funds in the high street.

The banks obligingly ignored this, fascinated as they were with wholesale lending overseas to Mexico, Brazil, Argentina... It was only in the early 1980's, when the world debt problem made wholesale lending less attractive, that the banks woke up. They found they had less than 40 per cent of the retail deposit market left in non-interest bearing current accounts.

At the same time corporate lending was becoming less profitable and the banks were getting desperate for financial resources. As their eyes turned inwards towards the domestic market they had neglected, they noticed what the building societies were up to and decided to join in.

The effect was electric. It did not take long for the banks to discover how sensitive to interest rates depositors are, and to offer accounts with higher rates of interest. The problem for both banks and societies alike in doing this is the tendency for people simply to switch their money from a lower to high paying account with the same institution.

One solution to this has been the higher rates paid for bigger deposits. The banks and building societies follow policies of paying graded rates of interest rising with the amount on deposit. So an account with, say, £10,000 in it might receive 1.0 per cent interest more than an account with only £1,000 and up to 2.5 per cent more than an ordinary deposit account.

But despite this, as higher interest accounts boomed, money in lower interest accounts has shrunk. Now less than 30 per cent of building society deposits are in ordinary share accounts compared to around 80 per cent two years ago. To attract more money into non-interest bearing current accounts on the

other hand, the banks have introduced free banking.

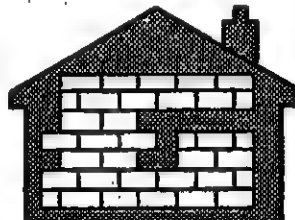
On the lending side, banks entered the mortgage market at the end of the 1970's realising that the margins to be made on this lending far outstripped those on corporate lending. Moreover, mortgage borrowers are extremely reliable and the default rate is tiny compared to other forms of lending — such as to developing countries.

The bank sector has by now captured 20 per cent of the £30 billion a year home loan market. But much of this money comes from US banks such as Citicorp and Chemical Bank, and most recently Chase Manhattan. Arab banks such as the United Bank of Kuwait, Japanese banks, European banks and others.

The result has been some sharp competition on mortgage rates. The US banks have tended to be the cheapest, charging about 0.25 per cent less than anyone else.

Until about six months ago the banks tended to charge less than the societies, but now that they have become established within the mortgage market their rates have slid upwards. Yet they are still aggressive.

Only a few weeks ago Lloyds Bank became the first institution to abolish the differential traditionally charged on endowment loans above the ordinary repayment loan rate. The other banks fol-



The Pru's move highlights the extra dimension behind competition

lowed, forcing the big building societies to do the same, scrapping the differential for new and existing borrowers by June this year.

Another recent development, however, has been the arrival of insurance companies as major lenders instead of merely agents for other institutions. Insurers have for long time tended to lend to homebuyers purchasing related insurance products, but only on a small scale. Recently, however, the Prudential announced that it was putting an initial £500 million into mortgage lending, taking it into the big league of mortgage lenders.

The Pru's move highlights the extra dimension behind all this sudden competition and attention to the customer in the street. It had noticed, along with the bank and building societies, that when someone is buying a house, probably the biggest financial decision of their life, there is an ideal opportunity to sell him a whole range of other

products from life insurance to house insurance, from conveyancing services to unit trusts, and even holidays or stocks and shares.

Increasingly institutions are tending to package their retail financial services together. The Pru is planning to use a chain of estate agencies as the most appropriate outlet through which to sell these services, as has Lloyds Bank with its Black Horse Agencies. Other banks and building societies intend to use their ordinary branch networks. But while banks can already move into most of these areas now, the societies have to wait for the Building Societies Bill to pass into law and become effective at the beginning of next year before they are allowed to start.

The effect of this competition has unquestionably been beneficial for consumers. The days of mortgage queues seem to have gone.

The choice of who to borrow from has expanded enormously and the services offered have almost certainly improved. It has become a common selling point for new arrivals in the market, for example, to offer a same day response to mortgage applications instead of the traditional two to three weeks taken by building societies.

The convenience of being able to buy other financial services under the same roof is also valuable to many customers.

It will mean that building societies must examine their options carefully. The commission to be gained from selling other financial services is naturally attractive at a time when the cost of borrowing retail funds has risen and the margin on lending has fallen due to competition. But that same competition is likely to drive down the returns on all types of financial services. Experts in the market are already gloomily predicting this.

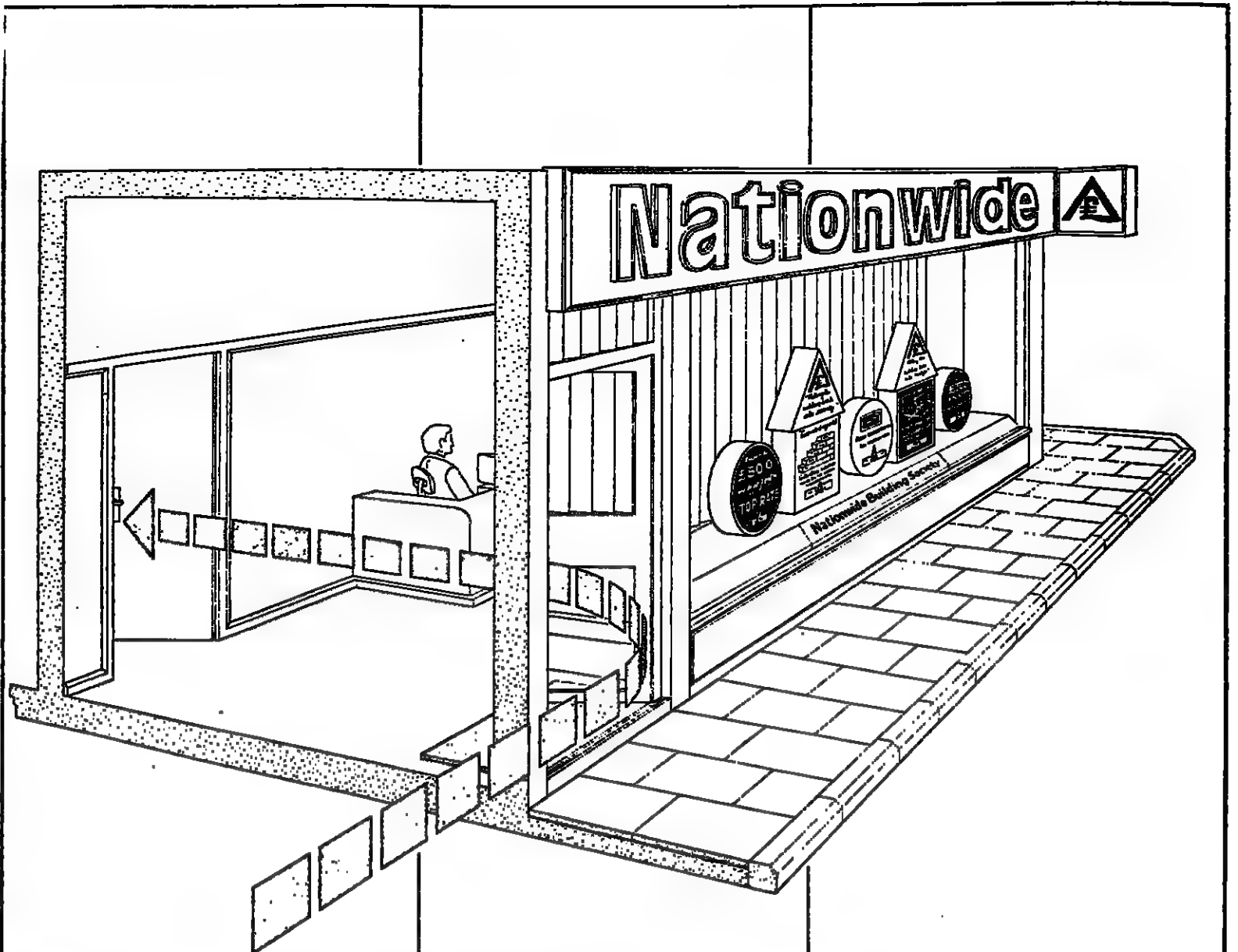
So the danger is that any society plunging straight into all the new types of financial service will find that some at least are not profitable. At that stage the decision whether or not to offer them, or to offer them as a loss leader because of the spin-off business in more profitable areas, may become difficult.

There will increasingly be the pressure to offer as wide a range of services as possible, however unprofitable, simply to keep up with the competitors.

The societies will be forced to operate less as social institutions and more like hard-nosed businesses.

One thing is certain. Building society branches will come to look increasingly like banks, or possibly like the new style estate agencies with specially trained staff on hand to sell a wide range of services and products. It is all a far cry from the one-product institutions which the societies were only a few years ago.

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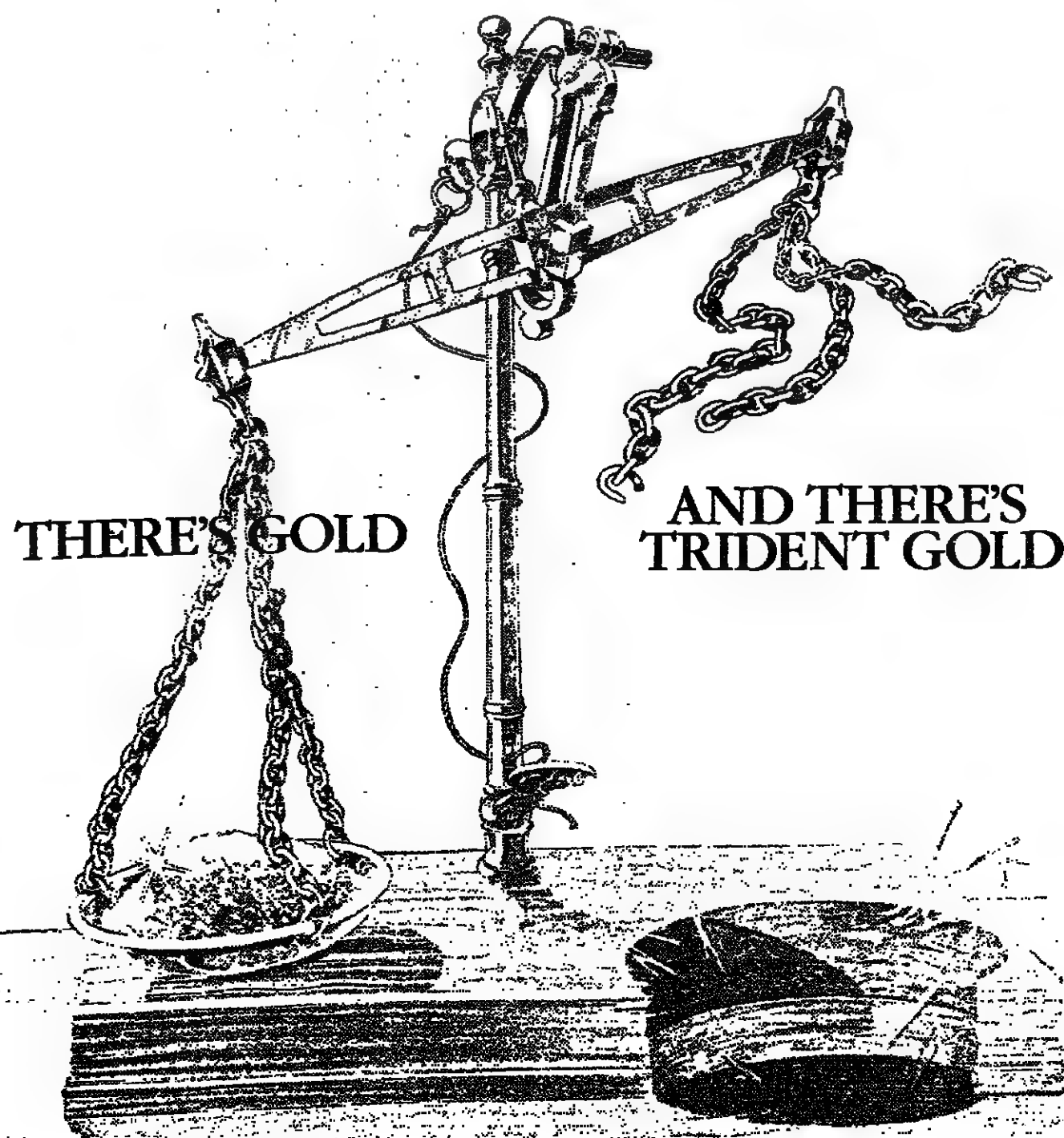
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New bodies to act as judge

The brave new world which building societies will enter once the Building Societies Bill becomes law will not only increase the powers of societies. It will herald no less than three new bodies overseeing building societies' activities.

The new entrants into the building society world include the Building Society Commission, which will broadly take over the supervisory powers of the present overseer of building societies, namely the Registry of Friendly Societies.

There will also be the Building Societies Investor Protection Board, responsible for administering a compensation scheme for building society investors and the Building Societies Ombudsman.

The current vogue for ombudsmen as a method of resolving consumer disputes is to be continued by the appointment of an ombudsman for the building societies. Schedule 2 of the Building Societies Bill laid down detailed provisions giving the new Building Societies Commission primary responsibility for disputes.

However, many interested parties thought that there should be a separate ombudsman who should discharge the disputes function. The

Consumers' Association, for instance, in its review of the Bill said voluntary arrangements for the establishment of an ombudsman recognized by all building societies as having authority in disputes procedures should be made as soon as possible.

One of the advantages of having an ombudsman, according to the association, would be to allow the commission to concentrate their resources on the supervision of societies.

The Building Society Ombudsman will supplement two recent creations in the area of

Protecting investors from insolvency

resolution of disputes — the Insurance Ombudsman and the Banking Ombudsman.

Another area of the Building Societies Bill that excited controversy was the question of protection of investors in insolvency.

Clause 22 of the Bill decreed that there should be a Building Societies Investor Protection Board which would manage and apply a compensation fund — called the Building Societies Investor Protection



Fund to be contributed to via levies from the building societies.

The problem with the proposed scheme was that it fell short of the protection which building society investors currently enjoy. It proposed that if there was an insolvency investors should get "three-quarters or such lesser proportion as the Board determines" of his investment, up to a ceiling on the investment of £10,000.

This means that the maximum level of protection proposed would be £7,500 (three-quarters of £10,000), irrespective of how much the investor had lost from the insolvency.

The Consumers' Association strongly criticized these proposals which were aimed at putting building society protection on the same footing as that available in the case of the insolvency of a bank or

licensed deposit taker under the Banking Act 1979.

Under existing arrangements societies voluntarily agree to a protection scheme which provides protection of 90 per cent for shareholders and cover of 100 per cent for deposits. CA urged that this should be the level of protection enshrined in the Bill.

In the committee stage of the Bill the Government came under pressure from conservative backbenchers on the committee to increase the protection. It agreed to increase it from 75 per cent to 90 per cent, on amounts up to £10,000, for as long as the limits on the societies' non-traditional lending remained in force.

The Building Societies Commission created by the Bill will take over the supervisory powers of the Registry of Friendly Societies in so far as they relate to building societ-

ies. Michael Bridgeman, the present Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, will be chairman of the commission with the title of First Commissioner.

There will be a number of commissioners, both full and part-time, the idea of the part-

Promote stability of societies

timers being to provide the BSC with the appropriate depth of experience from within the private sector. The appointment of Herbert Walden, immediate past chairman of the Building Societies Association, as part-time commissioner is in line with this aim.

The general functions of the commission will be to promote the financial stability of societies, to administer the system of regulation of building and societies to ensure that

they act within the limits of their powers.

It will have far-reaching powers such as the power to order an offending society to wind itself up or convert to a public company.

The running costs of the commission will be borne by the societies themselves in line with other financial institutions which pay for the costs of their own supervision. The Building Societies Association endorses this structure, but says that the costs are "substantial and careful consideration will need to be given as to how the costs are to be allocated between societies".

The BSA is also keen on the idea of having a body to supervise societies, rather than an individual, as exists at present with the Chief Registrar. This is necessary because of the wider range of powers which societies will enjoy.

Shop around for bargains

Building society savers can shop around as never before. Competition has forced the societies to offer finer rates and a broader range of accounts to suit every need. After last week's fall in interest rates it pays to choose especially carefully.

Most of the large societies now promote their accounts actively, with the Leeds Permanent, for example, spending as much as £5 million a year on advertising. But the best bargains are often to be found at smaller societies.

As long as a society is a member of the Building Societies Association there should be no problem of security, however small it is. If a society runs into financial difficulty savers are covered by the Investors' Protection Scheme which guarantees 90 per cent of their money.

With interest rates on the way down in general, investors may be tempted into putting their money into long term accounts. But *Building Society Choice* advises against this policy. After comparing a total of 1,500 accounts it says there is nothing available at longer than three months which pays better than the top rates on shorter term accounts.

Savers with smaller amounts who want few restrictions on access to their money should, for example, opt for the Paddington seven-day notice account where the minimum is only £100 or for St Pancras High Yield Shares where the minimum is £500. Both pay a true rate (allowing for the frequency with which interest is added to the account) of 9.73 per cent, though the Paddington has already given notice that its rate will be cut by 1 per cent on May 1.

Savers with large amounts who need to have access to their money can do even better, though again rates are liable to drop. Currently Blackheath's Extra Interest Shares Account is paying a true rate of 10.1 per cent on £10,000 and 9.9 per cent on £5,000. The Guardian, Kent Reliance, Clay Cross Benefit and Mornington are also good payers.

As well as paying higher rates, some of the smaller

societies offer attractive perks. Anyone investing £500 in the Skipton's Sovereign Share account, for example, automatically becomes a member of its travel club which has recently been offering £250 discount on P&O cruises.

With such a bewildering choice on offer there's a clear need for independent advice. The Building Society Shop, set up a year ago, by John Owen and his partner Jeff Willis, is designed to offer just that to investors with a minimum of £2,500. It gives free advice to savers and makes its money by taking commission from the societies.

Mr Owen says, however, that this is not a restriction on his independence and that he frequently recommends accounts in one of the 30 or so societies which don't pay a commission.

Of the societies which have already cut their rates he picks out the Skipton, which is paying a true rate of 9.05 per cent on £10,000, for immediate access, and the Frome Shelwood where the interest rate is 9.5 per cent.

As the best available regular savings account for amounts between £1 and £250 a month. For the best source of monthly income he selects the Market Harborough.

Children are almost as hotly fought over as the largest investors. The Sheffield claims to be way out in front, with its children's account paying 10 per cent, half yearly, but it requires parents or grandparents to open an account also.

Which? (February 1986) recommend Halifax Cardcash for anyone wanting an interest paying building society account to run in tandem with a bank account.

The Alliance & Leicester offers a linked account together with the Bank of Scotland. The idea is that you never pay bank charges while there is money in the building society and interest is paid on any spare cash.

Building Society Choice, published by MoneyGuides, Riverside House, Rattlesden, Suffolk, IP30 0SF (Tel: 04493 287).

Clare Dobie

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Jane Henderson and Peter Davalle

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- 6.30 **Breakfast Time**
- 9.00 **Coffee**
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- 10.00 **News** (1) 10.30 **Coffee**
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